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Near East & South Asia

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Nonaligned Movement Ministers on Cyprus, DPRK

Regret Expressed Over Failed Cyprus Talks

NC0306200094 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY in English 1740 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Nicosia, Jun 3 (CNA)—Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) foreign ministers, who met in Cairo, expressed regret on Friday [3 June] that the recent UN efforts to clinch an agreement on a package of confidence building measures in Cyprus have ended in failure because the Turkish side lacked political will.

The ministers also urged the UN Security Council to consider alternative ways to promote the implementation of its resolutions on Cyprus and recalled the idea of holding an international conference on the problem.

Moreover they reiterated their support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, unity and non-aligned status of the Republic of Cyprus.

The final document, adopted by the conference, which ended on Friday in the Egyptian capital, expressed the ministers' "regret that the recent initiative for the implementation of a package of confidence building measures has failed because the Turkish side has not shown the necessary political will, as has been reflected in the report of the UN secretary-general, just published."

The UN-led talks on the measures, which included the re-opening of Nicosia International Airport under UN control and the delivery of part of the Turkish-occupied town of Varosha to UN administration, ended in failure this week, nearly a year after they started.

Calling for the intensification of efforts towards finding a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, the ministers "stressed the importance of securing compliance with all UN resolutions on Cyprus" and "urged the UN Security Council to act accordingly."

The four-day meeting called for "the withdrawal of foreign troops and settlers" from Cyprus.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded and occupied the island's northern third. Turkey has repeatedly refused to comply with numerous UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of its occupation forces.

The NAM document considered the present status quo in Cyprus as "unacceptable" and expressed "deep regret and disappointment that so far no solution had been found."

The ministers "welcomed the proposal by President of Cyprus Glavkos Kliridhis for the demilitarisation of the Republic of Cyprus."

The extract on Cyprus has been described as a "huge success" because it contains many positions on the Cyprus issue that go far beyond any previous NAM decisions, a statement issued here on Friday said.

Cyprus Foreign Minister Alekos Mikhailidhis led an eight-member delegation to the meeting, during which he had separate meeting with 30 NAM foreign ministers.

DPRK Urged To Cooperate With IAEA

SK0406030594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 4 (YONHAP)—Foreign ministers of nonaligned countries demanded Friday [3 June] that North Korea cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in its efforts to carry out full inspections of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor, which the IAEA believes is the center of the North's suspected nuclear ambitions.

An official statement, adopted at the end of a four-day meeting here of foreign ministers from 85 nonaligned countries, stressed the need for a peaceful resolution of the issue through continuing dialogue and negotiations among relevant parties, particularly among the United States, the IAEA and North Korea.

North Korea had fiercely lobbied the delegates to the 11th conference of nonaligned foreign ministers to make no mention of the IAEA and the North Korean nuclear issue in the draft declaration, according to conference sources.

The conference, however, ignored these efforts in an apparent setback for North Korea in the Nonalignment Movement, they said.

A delegate from Singapore said it was impossible for the declaration not to mention the IAEA, adding that the Nonaligned Movement would have lost prestige in the international community had it not touched on the nuclear issue.

A substantial part of the 66-page declaration, meanwhile, was given over to emphasizing the need to change the direction of the Nonaligned Movement in the post-Cold War era.

In the declaration, the nonaligned countries pledged to strengthen cooperation among developing countries on the basis of mutual understanding and reliance and to pursue dialogue with the developed industrial world so as to promote international economic cooperation.

Criticizing the rich industrial countries for employing various forms of protectionism in international trade at a time when developing nations are trying to adopt open market policies, the declaration claimed the industrialized world has denied developing states access to advanced technology by blocking technology transfers, citing concerns over military applications.

Touching on regional conflicts, the declaration urged the immediate signing of a ceasefire between South and North Yemen, denounced the Israelis for their air raids on Lebanon Thursday and demanded that Iraq respect the sovereignty and borders of Kuwait.

The nonaligned foreign ministers decided to hold a nonaligned summit conference in Cartagena, Colombia, in September 1995.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League: Israeli Practices Do Not Serve Peace

NC0506142694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat has strongly denounced Israel's military operations against Lebanon, which killed and wounded many of the brotherly Lebanese people.

In a statement released today, the Arab League stressed that the continued Israeli buildup in southern Lebanon runs counter to Israel's claims that it seeks a durable, just, and comprehensive peace with the Arab countries and contravenes the rules of international law and the international resolutions, particularly Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon and the establishment of Lebanon's sovereignty over all its territories.

The statement stressed that Israel's continued hostile practices against the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories neither serve the peace process nor help build confidence, at a time when the region's peoples need to devote their attention to stability, security, and overall development.

The Arab League Secretariat called on the Security Council and the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, to force Israel to immediately halt its military operations against south Lebanon and to put all possible pressure to compel Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Israel's Actions Condemned

NC0406133794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The Arab League today condemned Israel's hostile military operations against Israel, which claimed the lives of scores of innocent civilians. Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, the Arab League's assistant secretary general for political affairs, has told our radio correspondent that Israel seeks from these hostile operations to obstruct the peace process on all tracks, particularly the Lebanese track. He added that Israel believes that striking at the Lebanese national resistance is a step in that direction. He stressed that national resistance is a legitimate right for the Lebanese that will not stop before Israel withdraws from every inch of the Lebanese occupied territories.

Ambassador 'Imran noted that the more Israeli aggressions against the Lebanese people there are, the more determined they will be to continue the struggle to expel Israel from south Lebanon, in implementation of UN Resolution 425, which the Security Council and the major states have thus far failed to implement.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Concerned Over Israeli Attacks in Lebanon

LD0506155294 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Jun (SPA)—The ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid expressed the ICO's deep concern over the recent Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon.

In a statement issued by the organization today, he said that these attacks, which were strong, barbaric, and do not respect human life, represent a blatant violation of international law; they provide further evidence on the motives of hegemony as practiced by Israel in its international relations.

Dr. al-Ghabid strongly condemned the air hostilities and the mobilization of land forces to launch more aggressive acts. He believes that the continuation of such barbaric acts could seriously hamper the peace process in the Middle East and would make it difficult to reach any satisfactory results.

He appealed to the UN Security Council to take into account these serious developments and called on the co-sponsors of the peace process to use their influence and exert maximum efforts to save the peace process.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 27 May

NC0406202094

[Editorial report] The following review of the 27 May issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Last Hours of Lawyer Madani
2. Interrogation of Brotherhood Leader Called Off
3. Editor Warns Government Not To Smother Liberties
4. Egyptian Sudanese War Feared
5. Al-Ghazali Sermon Banned
6. Mufti's Views on Jews, Palestine
7. Copts Not a Minority

LAST HOURS OF LAWYER MADANI

The death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani while in police custody remains in the news and AL-SHA'B publishes on page 1 a 500-word report on the last day of his life. Citing sources at Cairo's al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital, the paper says a police colonel brought a blindfolded man, unable to speak or move, to the hospital at dawn on 27 April, telling the intern on duty: "See if this kid is playing the fool or what is wrong with him." The intern discovered that the man's body was covered with bruises.

The report adds that the colonel refused to reveal the man's identity. He also would not allow the man's blindfold to be removed until he was seen by two resident physicians, one of whom suspected internal chest bleeding and wrote a note to this effect to the resident heart and chest surgeon. This note was disregarded and the patient was transferred to the detainees' ward where he died in the afternoon.

The report continues that when one of the resident doctors who had seen him in the morning reported for duty again in the afternoon, she was asked to write out a death certificate saying that the "unidentified" case who had been moved to the detainees' ward had died of an asthma attack.

AL-SHA'B says that Madani had never complained of asthma in his life.

INTERROGATION OF BROTHERHOOD LEADER CALLED OFF

A brief item on page 1 reports that al-Jizah's public attorney, following a meeting with Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr's lawyer Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, rescinded his earlier order to summon the general guide for interrogation. Abu-al-Nasr had been sought for interrogation in connection with the distribution of a leaflet carrying his signature shortly before the 'Id al-Adha Muslim feast. He had committed a technical illegality by signing the leaflet as the Muslim Brotherhood general guide. The Muslim Brotherhood is not formally recognized by the government as a legal movement.

EDITOR WARNS GOVERNMENT NOT TO SMOTHER LIBERTIES

Chief editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn discusses in a 2,500-word editorial on pages 1 and 2 the "official media's campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood" following the government's "dismal failure" in dealing with the Lawyers Association and its legally elected Council.

He says: "The government is creating a climate suggesting that it is time to pounce on the moderate Islamic stream by means of a media campaign that uses all methods except the truth. The claim is being emphatically made that the Muslim Brotherhood is part and parcel of the terrorist movement, although all those who write about this issue, relying on security reports, know in their hearts that this is not true."

Husayn warns the government not to encroach on the already narrow margin of liberties and says its vicious campaigns will merely serve to isolate it further from the citizens. He cites the government's decision to ban Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali from delivering a sermon on 'Id al-Adha, its arrest of Socialist Labor Party young members without specific charges, its hostile attitude to the Lawyers Association, and its contempt for journalists like himself. He declares: "You are ridiculing us and telling yourselves that this newspaper has been clamoring for months and years while we enjoy the seats of power. You say: Let them clamor while we rule. We can silence them at any time."

Husayn continues: "I tell you that the sense of the passage of time is a relative matter. When the day of which we warn you finally comes, you will regret but it will be too late."

EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE WAR FEARED

A 400-word article in the "Topic of the Hour" column on page 7 by Tal'at Rumayh warns of a possible Egyptian-Sudanese war over Hala'ib or over the Egyptian buildings and other installations that the Sudanese authorities periodically take over. He says he suspects that the "United States and Israel have a magical recipe to strike a decisive blow against Egypt's current and future role in the Arab world and to abort the Sudanese experiment at the same time."

AL-GHAZALI SERMON BANNED

A detailed report of 2,000 words on page 3 speaks of the government's "recent provocative acts against the Islamic stream" including the tight security measures in various places of worship during the 'Id al-Adha Muslim feast and the banning of well-known Muslim preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali from leading the 'Id al-Adha prayers and delivering a sermon in the square of the Mustafa Mahmud Mosque in Cairo's al-Muhandisin District. The government sent an Awqaf Ministry preacher to lead the worshipers in prayer.

The report describes the security measures around various mosques during the feast's religious observances and says the security forces tried to prevent worshipers from forming large crowds in village squares or in open areas before the mosques. There are references to the substance of the sermons made by various imams in various parts of the country. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mu'izz 'Abd-al-Sattar, a prayer leader in Hulwan advocated the application of Islamic shari'ah and the nation's return to Islam. Members of East Hulwan's Youth Center distributed a leaflet which said, in part: "This is the current condition of the Islamic nation and Palestine is being sold."

A 700-word commentary next to the above report is entitled: "The Accredited Preacher and the State-Owned Prayer Rug." The writer, AL-SHA'B journalist Khalid Yusuf, who was under police custody during the 'Id al-Adha observances, describes how he was allowed to worship surrounded by police officers, many of them plainclothes security personnel, and how he overheard them saying that the imam who was going to deliver the sermon was "the accredited speaker," meaning a preacher considered safe by the authorities.

MUFTI'S VIEWS ON JEWS, PALESTINE

In the newspaper's "Dialogue" section on page 9, Dr. Mahmud Himayah, an al-Azhar academic, writes a 4,500 article which appears to be a book review of an unnamed book by Mufti of the Republic Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi. Himayah does not say he is reviewing a book but the headline of the article reads:

"The mufti said: The Zionists Are People of Treachery, Espionage, and Corruption." In his introductory paragraph, Himayah again says "in the mufti's words" and halfway through the article this sentence appears: "Toward the End of the Book the Mufti Wonders: What Are the Main Reasons for the Palestinian Catastrophe?"

A two-column photograph of the mufti accompanies the article.

The apparent review outlines the mufti's views, based on Koranic verses, on the Jews's "killing of prophets" and their espousement of espionage methods to "promote their interests and work corruption on the earth".

The review then discusses the conversion of some Jews to other religions with the aim of promoting Jewish and Israeli interests. Dr. Ahmad Shalabi is quoted as saying that in several Far Eastern countries there are Buddhists of Jewish origin or Buddhists married to Jewish women who work in their countries' embassies in Indonesia and rather than serve those countries' interests, they are always seeking to promote the Israeli cause.

Part of the review is devoted to 19th century British Prime Minister Disraeli who is said to have converted to Christianity to help Jewish causes, including emigration to Palestine. He is also blamed for "stealing" Egypt's share of the newly built Suez Canal in the late 19th century by purchasing that share for a mere 4 million pounds from Khedive Isma'il.

There is a section about the "evils and sins" that the Jews are encouraged to perpetrate by their scriptures and other books. In this connection the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" are mentioned and the first, second, third, eleventh, and seventeenth "protocols" are cited. These are said to refer respectively to the clash between morality and politics, the power of the press, the benefits of the diaspora in enabling the Jews to "attain world dominance," and the need to undermine clerics of other religions.

The Jews are accused of "seeking to undermine religions, morals, and spiritual values" and using the media, including the cinema and theatre, to disseminate "debauchery and moral dissolution among individuals, communities, and nations."

Concerning the Palestinian issue, the mufti is cited as saying that the efforts of world Jewry to Judaize Palestine, the feeble religious sentiment among the Arabs, and Arab disunity were behind the loss of Palestine. He criticizes the fact that the defenders of Palestine at the time of Israel's establishment were motivated by nationalist, political sentiments alone to the exclusion of religious feeling. He stresses the need to correct this attitude and to keep the memory of Palestine alive until the time comes for its liberation.

As noted above, the name of the mufti's book is not given. Nor is there any indication of when the book was published.

COPTS NOT A MINORITY

Also on page 9, Ibrahim al-Bayyumi Ghanim discusses in a 3,000-word article entitled: "The Conference on Minorities and the Policy of Division" the status of Egypt's Coptic community. He refers to the attempts of foreign powers to use the minority issue to "serve their ambitions and promote their objectives in some of our countries where some minorities live, this being a well-known and long-established policy of Western and U.S. colonialism."

The article recalls the controversy surrounding the plan by Cairo's Ibn-Khaldun Center and the London-based Minority Rights Group to hold a conference on minorities in Cairo and issue a declaration called "The Cairo Declaration on Minority Rights." The controversy forced the organizers to change the meeting's venue from Cairo to Cyprus.

The writer points out that "the issue of minorities is an extremely sensitive issue and one of the most controversial worldwide." He adds that "foreign colonial and Zionist powers seek by actual intervention to foster ethnic and religious conflicts with the aim of turning these groups into new statelets and warring factions that will be easy to swallow."

He expresses reservations about the UN declaration of 18 December 1992 about the rights of "individuals belonging to national, ethnic, and linguistic minorities" and says it cannot serve as a reference for handling minority issues in "our Arab and Islamic societies."

The writer denies that the Copts are a minority in Egypt and recalls how they were removed from the agenda of the conference in question following the uproar that surrounded their original inclusion in it. He writes: "They are not an ethnic minority or the descendants of a different national group. Actually the Muslims of Egypt are the descendants of the Copts of the pre-Islamic era. The Copts have no special language or culture that would isolate them from others but are a basic component of Egypt's social and cultural fabric."

He asserts that an Islamic system joins Muslims and the adherents of other religions in a united homeland and in a framework of common interests and emphasizes that an Islamic society always guarantees freedom of worship for non-Muslims.

He remarks: "The relationship between Egypt's Muslims and Copts was not disturbed until foreign colonialism entered our land. Nowadays a vicious foreign element or a disloyal domestic element is sowing suspicion among the sons of the same homeland and provoking disputes among them, thus serving the interests of colonialism and Zionism."

He continues: "It is our view that if the minority concept prevails in any society, it will have unlimited destructive repercussions that will eventually waste the united majority and lead to its dissolution. This can only be followed by its disappearance and assimilation into greedy foreign entities that seek to dominate us and control the whole world."

He ends the article by calling for the inclusion of all citizens in a free discussion of national issues.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Go to Jordan for Medical Tests

NC0306150294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1308 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 3 Jun (MENA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night received Sten Anderson, head of the Scandinavian Countries Council and Sweden's former foreign minister.

The Palestinian News Agency WAFA said 'Arafat and Anderson discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, especially the Palestinian National Authority's takeover of its tasks in the Palestinian land. The discussion also dealt with the Palestinian Authority's responsibility for reconstructing Palestine and the international community's responsibility to help in this task.

The Palestinian News Agency said the head of the Scandinavian Countries Council expressed his support for the Palestinian National Authority with all means to enable it to implement its tasks.

Informed sources here expressed their belief that announcing this meeting, which might have taken place in 'Arafat's home, aims to counter reports on the seriousness of 'Arafat's illness.

Informed Palestinian sources affirmed that a suite has been booked for 'Arafat at the Medical City in Jordan and that 'Arafat will be moved there in the next few days for treatment and necessary medical tests.

It was announced yesterday that 'Arafat had suffered a severe ailment that kept him at home and halted his activities.

Bal'awi: Media Reports on 'Arafat's Health 'Untrue'

LD0306181594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, PLO Executive Committee member and representative in the Republic of Tunisia, has categorically denied news circulated by news agencies on the state of health of the brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], which necessitate transferring him to the Medical City in Amman.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi said that all the news circulated by the news agencies is untrue, and that president 'Arafat's appointments' schedule continues according to their priorities. The truth is that that he took a rest for a few hours after catching a cold.

He concluded his statement by saying that the brother president is well and that everything that the mass media circulated is untrue.

Sha'th on Delay in International Aid, Other Issues

JN0506131994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0950 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Palestinian National Authority, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi in the studio on 5 June; from the the "With the Midday Events" feature—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, good afternoon.

[Sha'th] Good afternoon, you are welcome.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, do you agree that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement will be in danger if the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] does not receive the funds promised by the donor states?

[Sha'th] True, peace is in danger. This is because the issue is not one of violation of the agreement. I do not think that there is anyone who wants to violate the agreement. What counts is the implementation of the agreement, and the implementation of the agreement needs invigoratation and speed. These donor states, which paid billions of dollars in the past to finance wars and to finance the Camp David Accord, should now pay some tens of dollars to enable the PNA to begin its work in Gaza and Jericho.

[Mu'addi] Dr., in your opinion, what is the reason for the delay in the financial aid? Has the PLO fulfilled its commitments toward these states?

[Sha'th] The truth is that the PLO has established two institutions, an institution to support the Palestinian police, and I chair this institution; and the other institution is to receive financial aid for administration and economic development, which is chaired by brother Abu-al-Lutf, Faruq Qaddumi, and it has an office in Jerusalem and another in Gaza. There are Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, Dr. Nabil Qassis, and others, and there is an integrated technical crew for this administration. I do not believe that the issue is due to some fundamental or institutional reasons, but to delay in the arrival of funds from donor states.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, opposition here in the West Bank and Gaza ask: Where are the PLO's funds?

[Sha'th] There are no funds in the PLO. The PLO has spent almost four years, in fact, four years and two months, receiving no aid from anyone. I believe that these four years, in terms of expenditures, inside and outside [the occupied territories] and millions of dollars which have been paid to the families of martyrs, detainees, the wounded, the disabled, and the Palestinian institutions inside and outside, have exhausted all the PLO's funds.

[Mu'addi] In a television interview, Yasir 'Arafat said that [illegible] not go to Jericho because donor countries have not yet sent funds. Is this a warning, or an attempt to pressure these states?

[Sha'th] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat's complaint is justified and reasonable. We have not yet become a full-fledged independent state that has all rights and duties so that we can immediately do what other independent states do, in terms of sovereign actions, to print banknotes in its central bank or to get loans from its commercial banks. We do not have these powers yet. Therefore, in order to begin the implementation of an international agreement that all these states have signed, these states must fulfill their commitments, including Israel which should pay its dues to employees at the pension fund and other dues. Before we can begin levying new taxes, there are dues with the Israeli authorities, and other dues agreed with the donor states of which we have not yet obtained anything. So, President 'Arafat's complaint is justified and legal.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, are new PNA members going to arrive in the self-rule areas in Gaza and Jericho?

[Sha'th] Yes. This is in addition to the PNA members who are already there such as brothers Zakariya al-Agha, Frayh Abu-Middayn, Riyad al-Za'nun, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Faysal al-Husayni, Ilyas Frayj, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hajj Ahmad, who are already inside. God willing, we will all join them.

[Mu'addi] When will Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi arrive in the self-rule areas?

[Sha'th] During this week, God willing.

[Mu'addi] Dr., one final question, concerning the group which arrived, maybe in Cairo, and left for Gaza, who does this group include?

[Sha'th] It includes some personnel who were stationed in Tunis. They are all from among the approved names which constitute the remaining part of the Palestinian police.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PNA member, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Future of Jerusalem

NC0506190594 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Jun 94 pp 1,8

[Report on interview with Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Jerusalem committee, by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] Chairman of the Jerusalem committee Faysal al-Husayni has admitted that there is a letter of assurance from the Israeli Government regarding the future of Jerusalem and the institutions there. He said: "I can say that, among other things, there is an assurance in the letter that the Palestinian institutions in the city will not be harmed." However, he declined to disclose the contents of the letter, saying: "This letter was written in such a way as not to be public." In a lengthy interview with AL-NAHAR, he stressed that the Jerusalem committee has not yet been formed because this requires certain measures. He noted, however, that this does not mean that the components of the committee are not operating. He said that he will visit the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia in the next few days to obtain support for the Jerusalem committee to perform its tasks in the face of the challenges imposed on the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem by the Israeli Government. When asked if Palestinian President 'Arafat will visit Jerusalem, he said: " I believe that 'Arafat will visit Jerusalem under Palestinians banners."

[Arna'ut] A few weeks ago, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin denied that he gave 'Arafat a letter of assurance on Jerusalem, but a few days ago, he affirmed that there was such letter. There is talk about two letters exchanged between the two parties regarding Jerusalem. Is it true that such letters were exchanged?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, there is a letter of assurance. Among other things, the letter reassures us about the status of Jerusalem and the institutions there. I do not want to talk further on this issue because this letter was written in such a way as not to be published. But, I can say that, among other things, the letter includes assurances that the institutions in Jerusalem will not be infringed upon.

[Arna'ut] So why this Israeli campaign against the national institutions in Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the campaign is partly a reaction to the moves of the Israeli right wing. There is a Palestinian move not only in response to the Israeli statements but to Israeli practical measures. These statements by both parties triggered a very sensitive situation. Rabin seems to be trying to protect his political image before the Israeli right wing and to change some of his stances. When we consider these stances we see that they contravene the nature and spirit of the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement [as published]

[Arna'ut] Did the meetings between you and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal take place on the basis of the letter of assurance?

[Al-Husayni] The fact that we said that the talks over the future of Jerusalem can be discussed at a later stage does not mean that the issue of Jerusalem cannot be discussed at present. The talks on the future of Jerusalem were postponed to discuss the situation in Jerusalem and Palestinian-Israeli relations in Jerusalem. We agreed to discuss these issues which were the topics of discussion between me and Shahal. However, these meetings and their effectiveness are affected by the general political atmosphere. If the negotiations in Paris face a crisis, they affect the meetings in Jerusalem. Similarly, a crisis in the negotiations in Cairo and Oslo and the setbacks in implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement indirectly affect the meetings in *Jerusalem.*

[Arna'ut] Are these meetings continuing?

[Al-Husayni] Yes.

[Arna'ut] How can Shahal, who is the chairman of the committee on saving Jerusalem, be your counterpart in discussing facilities for the Jerusalem public?

[Al-Husayni] I am also the chairman of the Jerusalem committee which is also a committee for saving Jerusalem.

[Arna'ut] How?

[Al-Husayni] We are both interested in the issue of Jerusalem. The one who speaks for Jerusalem is supposed to be representative of the authorities and not a Palestinian envoy to the Israelis. The official facing us is representative of the Israeli authorities with their good and bad sides and hence we are aware that he has a certain status and a say in matters and he steers this committee. We agreed to hold talks with him to determine the steps that can be taken.

[Arna'ut] What is your information on the Israeli committee on saving Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] This committee was formed by the Israelis because they felt that the time for deciding on the issue of Jerusalem is approaching and so they want to avoid placing this issue on the agenda. Hence, they are trying to take measures to strengthen their position when the negotiating process begins. This is what prompted us to form the Jerusalem committee to demand that the Arab and Islamic world support it, because the Israeli committee is not only supported by Israel but by the whole world.

[Arna'ut] Certain Palestinians say that a bylaw was prepared for the Palestinian Jerusalem committee but no practical measures have been taken.

[Al-Husayni] We announced that we want to form this committee but have not yet done so because this requires certain procedures. However, this does not mean that the components of the committee are not operating. The Jerusalem committee in the old city is functioning to defend and renovate the buildings in the old city within the means available. When we say the Jerusalem committee we do not mean the major Jerusalem committee with the same resources given to it. We are working to establish an initial budget through which the Jerusalem committee can function and expand its work. We do not mean a major committee whose expenses we cannot afford.

[Arna'ut] Does this mean you will kick the ball back into the Arab court to gain support for the Jerusalem committee?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. I will visit the Gulf and Saudi Arabia in the next few days to end this matter.

[Arna'ut] Has Saudi Arabia extended aid to the Jerusalem committee before?

[Al-Husayni] Saudi Arabia has given specific aid, but not to us directly. It provided aid to the PLO to assist some existing institutions and to meet its obligations and needs for the implementation of the agreement. Everybody knows that the PLO needed this aid to begin the implementation of the agreement.

[Arna'ut] A few months ago you stated that in the next two years Jerusalem residents must launch a battle to prove that Jerusalem is Arab and Islamic. What measures did the Palestinian side take in this regard?

[Al-Husayni] A number of things. The battle of Jerusalem is a political, diplomatic, economic, social, educational, and cultural battle. On the political and diplomatic levels, we are doing our best. This place, the Orient House, is one of the areas that has made a great effort toward that end. I believe that we gained a preliminary presence. This place has turned into a meeting place for the Palestinians with foreigners as well as among the Palestinians themselves to discuss several internal issues. At the economic level, this center has endeavored to call for an economic workshop on Jerusalem, and I believe we must convene such a conference in Jerusalem as soon as possible to send a message to the Israelis that Jerusalem's importance is not just religious. The Israelis must realize that this is the Palestinians' religious, political, economic, and educational capital. Conferences must be held in Jerusalem and funds must be obtained for economic projects, educational seminars, and conferences of this nature so that the Israelis may realize that Jerusalem's fate is not a foregone conclusion. Finally, the Palestinian capabilities, skills, and expertise must be geared toward defending Jerusalem. At the present stage, I believe that we must think of establishing a new college, for instance, to be part of the Jerusalem university and not part of other Palestinian universities. If there is a possibility for renovation or new investments, this must be done in Jerusalem. Jerusalem needs at least 30,000 housing units on an urgent basis to meet its requirements, and this requires more activity than what we are doing now.

For this reason, we thought of establishing the Jerusalem committee, which will comprise shadow institutions for all the other institutions existing in Jerusalem. Each department within this committee will follow up the work of its Israeli equivalent to pursue things and put pressure to gain the Palestinian rights in Jerusalem.

[Arna'ut] However, the Palestinian institutions are meeting in Ramallah and Bethlehem instead of Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] This is one of the serious mistakes, where committing them is tantamount to acknowledging a fait accompli, something that we do not wish to do.

[Arna'ut] It seems that the Israeli side views the Orient House as the link between the foreign consulates in Jerusalem and the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Husayni] The Orient House had a specific role to play before the agreement was signed and it will continue to play this role. We were offering services to the PLO in Tunis at the political level, and we are ready to offer these services to the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho.

[Arna'ut] If the Orient House is transferred, will foreign consulates be opened in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Husayni] It is very clear that the consulates are present here to represent the Palestinians inside and outside Jerusalem. Thus, under the current situation, it is not enough for them to play their role toward Gaza and Jericho and so they will play their role toward Jerusalem here and then with the authority [sentence as published], and we coordinate with the authority.

[Arna'ut] You had your own stand on the Cairo agreement, yet you took part in the meeting held by the leadership to form the Palestinian authority. It was announced that you would be given a ministerial portfolio but this was denied later. Is there any Israeli pressure on the question of the participation of Arabs from Jerusalem in the Palestinian authority?

[Al-Husayni] There is not going to be such a portfolio, about Jerusalem. But there are responsibilities in this matter. As to my responsibilities, whether I am in the authority or not, they will be devoted to the Jerusalem issue.

[Arna'ut] In the final negotiations on Jerusalem, will you ask Israel to pay the money it has levied from the Palestinians in the city during the years of occupation?

[Al-Husayni] Yes.

[Arna'ut] That is the arnona [property tax] and taxes?

[Al-Husayni] We will ask for the taxes levied on services that have not been given.

[Arna'ut] Are you preparing studies and statistics on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. There is a special center for planning and studies.

[Arna'ut] Private housing projects are under way in Jerusalem now. But we have not heard about large housing projects by the Palestinian side. Why?

[Al-Husayni] Our basic problem is that there are potentially 7,000 building licenses. But building on the land given us is a complicated matter, that is, this land includes common land and some of it is not ready for building upon. I believe that committees should be formed to resolve the problem of these lands. Countries usually confiscate lands in this way. We must conclude an understanding between the owners of these lands and the concerned reconstruction parties in Jerusalem. There must be agreement between the land owners and those concerned and we must find a way to solve the problem of this land.

[Arna'ut] Palestinians in Jerusalem are complaining that a services establishment in Jerusalem is encouraging owners to rent their houses to foreigners at the expense of Jerusalem's Palestinians. Has the Jerusalem committee not thought of taking measures against it?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that we are not supposed to rush into renting too much to foreign establishments at the expense of the Palestinians. The staff of such an establishment must in fact look for new ways and to contact those who own buildings which are, for example, appropriate to be offices. It is better to let foreign establishments pay to build on the sites that are fit to be office complexes and to leave the houses in Jerusalem.

[Arna'ut] Yehuda Olmert said that he will close Orient House. What is your response?

[Al-Husayni] He has said so and I believe that what he said does not serve the cause of peace or Israel.

[Arna'ut] Do you believe that President 'Arafat will visit Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni]I believe that 'Arafat will visit Jerusalem under the Palestinian flags.

Self-Rule Officials on New Procedures, Economy

NC0306114894 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Jun 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] Gaza, AL-QUDS Information office—Lawyer Khalid al-Qidrah, official in charge of the city's Liaison Committee, has stressed that all former rules applying to citizens under 30 years old have been abolished. These people have been given temporary identification cards within the framework of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He said that every citizen outside the homeland can return. Regarding travel, every citizen who wants to travel abroad has a right to do so without a permit from the self-rule area. Al- Qidrah emphasized that the magnetized ID cards will be abolished in the near future because they are inapplicable in the self-rule area, which now enjoys special powers under the Palestinian National Authority.

Engineer Furayj Ahmad al-Khayri, official in charge of the Coordination Committee, said that every time his committee meets with the Israeli counterpart he calls for going back to the rules that were valid before the closure of the Gaza Strip on 29 March 1993, including travel rights for girls under 16 years old and people older than 50 without obtaining permits. He said that these measures are no longer necessary because we now live in a stage of peace, which we as Palestinians recognize. The Israeli side should treat us accordingly, he said.

Al-Khayari stressed that trade and economy in the Gaza Strip are in a state of collapse as a result of the occupation. We are doing all we can to build a stable economy and trade to encourage Palestinian, Arab, and foreign financiers to invest. He noted that without Israeli encouragement and confidence there can be no progress. He said that university professors and students should not be denied permits to join their universities and that such pressure will turn them from advocates of peace in the West Bank into fighters confronting the occupation. He added that we want to live in peace.

Egypt's Musa Confers With Officials on Accord, Funds

NC0606091894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 6 Jun (MENA)—Last night Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member; and Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade for the Palestinian National Authority. They reviewed the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and the steps taken so far by the PLO to implement the Palestinian self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho signed in Cairo on 4 May.

Musa and the Palestinian officials also discussed the difficulties and obstacles facing the completion of the implementation of the agreement and the return of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the members of the Palestinian leadership to Jericho and Gaza. The difficulties and obstacles are represented by the lack of necessary funds for the Palestinian National Authority. So far the Authority has not received the funds promised by donor countries.

Israel Said Ready To Swap Prisoners for MIA's

TA0306182894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, who holds the justice portfolio in the Palestinian Autonomy Authority, says Israel is prepared to release all the Palestinian prisoners in exchange for three soldiers missing since the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle. He asserts that the prisoner release matter was concluded in Oslo, but the MIA issue is hindering the release.

Abu-Middayn says Israel is still holding 8,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Abu-Middayn Admits to Info on MIA's

TA0606120194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Speaking at a closed forum in Gaza last weekend, Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn, who the PLO chairman appointed justice minister in the Palestinian Authority, revealed that the three Israeli MIA's from the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub—Zekharya Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz—were buried by a squad belonging to Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. According to him, today there are five other people who know where the bodies are buried, but he would not name them.

This is the first time such a high-ranking Palestinian official has admitted that the PLO has information regarding the three Israeli MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'aqub battle. Abu-Middayn's remarks were published in the East Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS two days ago. According to the paper, Abu-Middayn said: "Once we find the bodies of the three Israeli soldiers, the problem of the Palestinian prisoners will be solved." Abu-Middayn said Israel is willing to release all the Palestinian prisoners in return for the bodies of the three soldiers who have been missing since 1982 and stressed that the problem of the MIA's is on the verge of solution.

Abu-Middayn further said at the Gaza gathering that all the Palestinian prisoners should be released in view of the Oslo agreement, "but Israel has reservations about this. It is no secret that the matter depends on the bodies of the three Israeli soldiers, which are being held by Palestinians."

Several months ago, the PLO delivered half of MIA Baumel's dog tag to the defense establishment.

A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer has said that the PLO information on the MIA's is reliable. According to the officer, it is obvious that the PLO has information regarding the three MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle, and Israel expects to receive that information.

Defense establishment sources have said that Abu-Middayn's remarks are interesting but that Israel continues to seek information about all its MIA's, including those from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle. The reference is to the bodies of MIA's Yosi Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh as well and to information about captive navigator Ron Arad.

Two years ago, Uri Lubrani, who headed the negotiating team on the MIA and POW issue, was relieved of this task, and it was handed over to Major General Yoram Ya'ir, head of the IDF Personnel Branch.

At present, 8,000 Palestinian prisoners are being held in IDF detention facilities. So far, some 2,000 prisoners and detainees have been released after pledging in writing not to carry out terror attacks and declaring their support for the peace process.

At the Gaza gathering, Abu-Middayn further said that the Palestinian leadership has established a special ministry to deal with casualties and prisoners. According to him, the office will handle the rehabilitation of the casualties and prisoners and take care of their needs. No decision on who will head this ministry has been made yet.

190 Palestinian Officers, NCO's Cross Into Gaza

NC0506143294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Al-'Arish, 5 Jun (MENA)—A group of 190 Palestinian officers and noncommissioned officers arriving from the Palestinian headquarters in Tunis passed through the Rafah crossing-point today. Major General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Mahayidah, commander of the Palestinian forces in Rafah, said that the group includes personnel from the various specialized police agencies. He said that this group will start work and deploy in the self-rule areas to augment the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho.

PLO Radio Reports Departure of Staff for Gaza

JN0406202494 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 94p

[Text] One hundred fifty-eight PLO officers and staff last night flew out from Tunis aboard a special Tunisian plane chartered by Saudi Arabia to Egypt, their last stop before they proceed to the Gaza Strip. The group, officially regarded a part of the Palestine Liberation Army, is comprised of personnel who served over the past few years on PLO-related civic duties. They will travel by bus from Egypt to the crossing point in Rafah tomorrow, Sunday, on their way to the Gaza Strip.

Al-Franji Explains PLO Delay in Moving Base

AU0606110594 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0451 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Franji, head of the PLO office in Bonn, by Hero Buss; place not given—live]

[Text] [Buss] Good morning, Mr. Al-Franji.

[Al-Franji] Good morning.

[Buss] Mr. Al-Franji, yesterday, REUTERS ran the following statement, and I quote: Israel has called on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to tackle effectively the problems of the self-administrated areas Gaza Strip and Jericho. Regarding 'Arafat's complaints about international financial aid, which was promised but has not been provided yet, a spokesman for the Israeli Government reacted with criticism and said that 'Arafat had acted like a beggar instead of taking action. Government spokesman Drori said that it was time for 'Arafat to stop behaving like a beggar and stop whining, and that he should tackle the problems there effectively. End quote.

Mr. Al-Franji, apart from the polemical rhetoric, the Israelis seem to be worried.

[Al-Franji] I would say that this is not the right way for Israel to deal with 'Arafat. 'Arafat is a partner in the peace process in the region, and 'Arafat has actually done a lot to advance the peace process to the current stage. Of course, the problems left by Israel after 27 years of occupation are enormous. One cannot solve these problems overnight. We have financial problems. The countries that promised to support the Palestinian people insist on certain conditions that cannot be fulfilled so easily. The Israelis, who took a lot of money off the Palestinians in those years, and who committed themselves to pay parts of this money to the Palestinians and to 'Arafat, have not done so. This is why 'Arafat cannot overcome the problems alone. And it is understandable that 'Arafat cannot and will not cope with the problems alone.

[Buss] Is there a practical reason for 'Arafat and the PLO leadership not to have moved yet to the now autonomous Palestinian areas?

[Al-Franji] One reason is that 'Arafat has been ill for a week. Actually, it is the second time he has been ill. This is the only reason that our move has been delayed. Nevertheless, we have sent some people there, and we have taken over responsibility in the Gaza Strip, and things are working, working not too badly. One has hardly heard of people being injured or killed in this region since we took over. I hope that 'Arafat gets better soon and that he will soon be able to assume his duties.

[Buss] Is there anything at all that the PLO leadership might be able to administer or solve better from Tunis than from a base in the autonomous regions?

[Al-Franji] Certainly not. Any Palestinians bearing responsibility within the PLO would like to go there right away. However, there are many conditions that are making this difficult. And these conditions are one part of the agreement between us and the Israelis. If I were to react today to the declaration of the Israeli or the Israeli Government Spokesman Drori, then we would thwart this peace process [dann werden wir diesen Prozess des Friedens platzen lassen], which is why we have to deal with one another with patience, with a sense of responsibility, and with understanding. This is what I cannot see on the part of some Israelis. There are other Israelis who, of course, do not talk like that official Israeli spokesman or say such things as he just has.

[Buss] Could you elaborate on that? What exactly is it that could thwart the process?

[Al-Franji] I do not want to talk about the failure of this process. All I would like to say is that we are now bearing responsibility together, and that we must help one another. It is very difficult. It is not so simple that one could say: Well, the PLO must now rapidly get all the problems under control left by the Israelis after 27 years of occupation. We cannot do that. We must get help from the Israelis and from the Arab world, and help from Europe and the United States. I cannot imagine that the United States, which promised a lot and bears great responsibility for this process, that it will remain so passive toward us. One must not really do that. Peace in this region is not just a matter for the Palestinians and Israelis alone, it is a matter for the international community. And I hope that the other parties will now assume their share in responsibility so that the PLO will be able to get the problems in the occupied territories under control.

[Buss] As far as the Israeli heritage, the legacy in Palestine is concerned, people in Israel hold a different view. It has been said, for example, that one even considerably extended the infrastructure in the formerly occupied territories.

[Al-Franji] Well, I do not want to discuss what the Israelis did and what they did not do. It was an ugly time, during which we could not see the Israelis as a—let us say—liberator, or a helper. We did not act any differently from other peoples that were occupied, for example. We are glad about it. Of course, the transition is very difficult and complicated. The problem is not that the Palestinians and the PLO are unqualified, but simply that we lack the funds. For many years we spent money on the occupied territories, and we—and not the Israelis—continued to build up many things during the era of occupation. We built the universities there, we established the committees, the organizations, the trade unions, everything, while the Israelis had laws that prevented us from operating these institutions in the appropriate way.

[Buss] Mr. Al-Franji, let us briefly talk about the financial aid. It has been said that you were promised $2.4 billion in aid, money that is badly needed. Who promised how much, and who is now unwilling to pay?

[Al-Franji] The United States has promised a lot—$500 million. The European Community promised $600 million, the World Bank, and many other institutions also promised money. The way in which the donor countries or the countries that wanted to provide the money are dealing with one another is not smooth enough so that one party would say: we now give the Palestinians so much money for the next two or three months or the coming six months to make sure they can work. They also have difficulties and are facing complications, and one can say that there is not a single organization that would be responsible for all the donors that have so far provided money or intend to do so. On the part of the Palestinians, we have not yet nominated all members of the government that is to assume responsibility. However, we hope that we can do that within a week, and we are also hoping that the World Bank will not continue to place its conditions so firmly and difficult on the head of the Palestinians [passage as heard] so that we will be able to take the necessary steps to overcome this difficult situation.

DFLP's Rejection of Self-Rule Deal Reported

JN0506140694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said the fall of some 40 Palestinians injured in Hebron by Israeli occupation troops' gunfire within view of foreign observers confirms once again that the foreign presence in its current form does not provide effective international protection of the Palestinian people.

In a statement issued today, the DFLP says the implementation of Resolution 904 was just a deal between the Oslo team and Israel to expedite the implementation of the self-rule administration in Gaza and Jericho, at the expense of the Palestinian people, their interests, and their national rights. The DFLP urges the international community and peace-loving forces to work seriously to provide effective international protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as a first step on the path to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah reiterated his rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the applications agreement in Cairo. He considered it a deal of individual submission that will only lead to more frivolous play and self-deception. In statements, Hawatimah said these separate deals were struck behind the back of the Palestinian people and against their national will. He said preparations are under way now to hold a broad-based popular conference that will reaffirm rejection of what is going on and seek to establish the national terms of reference. He said the agreement will not fall by a magic blow, but will need struggle and ceaseless work within the ranks of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland. He called for improving the alliance of the Palestinian forces, as well as all other forces that reject the agreement.

Hawatimah also reaffirmed the DFLP's refusal to participate in any way in the self-rule authority because the question, he said, has never been that of quotas, but a national issue in the first place.

Dissident Fatah, DFLP Statement on Lebanon Reported

JN0406163994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The Central Committee of the [dissident] Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, has stressed that the Israeli military escalation against Lebanon falls within the context of exerting pressure against Syria through Lebanon to make it abandon its national and pan-Arab positions, which reject secret and public agreements similar to the recent Cairo agreement between 'Arafat and Rabin.

This emerged in a statement issued by the Central Committee today. The statement reviews the threats, objectives, and dimensions of the Israeli military escalation against Lebanon at this time in particular and the Western world's silence about it. The statement says: This escalation comes in continuation of the attempts by Israel and the hostile forces to strike at the forces that oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement in order to implement this agreement, pave the way for it, and market it through the Palestinian gate to our Arab region.

The statement praises the heroism and steadfastness of the national and Islamic resistance in Lebanon and warns our masses against the dimensions and threats of the new Israeli military escalation. It stresses that struggle will continue until the occupied territories are liberated.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] also stressed that the Israeli attacks against Lebanon confirm the weakness of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the true intentions of Israel's phony calls for peace with Lebanon and the Arabs.

In a statement issued today on the anniversary of the 5 June 1967 Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, the DFLP says it urges everyone to confront Israel's schemes and savage aggression, in a manner that bolsters the march of the valiant intifadah in the occupied territories and ensures the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which guarantee to the Palestinian people the right to liberate their land, determine their own future, and establish their independent state.

PLF Leader on Accord, Participation in Authority

JN0306103394 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
4-10 Jun 94 p 12

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, by 'Imad al-Dik in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Dik] What is your opinion on the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel?

['Abbas] In principle, we oppose this plan, and we have expressed our opposition through various means and in different places, including the PLO institutions, the Executive Committee, the Central Council, and the subsidiary institutions, and also whenever we had an opportunity to criticize this plan or oppose this agreement. This is because we view this agreement as a relinquishment of the constant national principles in which we believe and for which we have offered sacrifices. Our Palestinian Arab people have paid a great price to achieve their aspirations and objectives, which are much greater than the maximum benefits offered by this agreement. This agreement does not achieve even the minimum of our people's aspirations. It was signed under circumstances in which the balance of power was in favor of the enemy by all standards. In brief, when the balance of power is in favor of the enemy, an agreement serving the enemy's interest is the result. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dik] What are your future plans for dealing with the new situation in view of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

['Abbas] We confronted this agreement even before it was signed. Now, instead of just rejecting the agreement we must work so that this agreement does not turn into the end result of the Palestinian struggle.

[Al-Dik] Do you believe that there is an agreement between 'Arafat and the Israelis on not releasing the detainees who oppose the peace march?

['Abbas] Israel has publicly declared this, so it does not need an agreement. However, the PLO leadership, which represents the Palestinian people, cannot sign such an agreement because this leadership does not distinguish between Palestinians and because it is duty-bound to protect the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dik] What will be the [Palestine Liberation] Front's position on the Palestinian police if the latter confronts the Front's elements who attack the Zionists?

['Abbas] The Arab borders are wide, and so is the area on which the Zionists are present. When we decide to fight the enemy, we will certainly choose a way that will keep us away from clashes with our people's sons in terms of the police and security forces. We will also complete our march without involving ourselves in a confrontation with any nationalist Palestinian.

[Al-Dik] As a Front, was participation in the self-rule authority offered to you?

['Abbas] Yes, it was directly proposed to us in our capacity as a part of the PLO. Our choice was to join the field institutions that are directly concerned with our people's situation in the self-rule areas. Participation in the self-rule authority, however, was left for the future because it will take a political decision by the organization's bodies. We have not made a final decision on this issue, and we have requested some time to consider it. The final decision, however, will be made by the Front's leadership, although my personal opinion is not to participate. [passage omitted]

[Al-Dik] Following the [Israeli-PLO] agreement, is it possible that such agreements can end the state of animosity and conflict with the Zionist enemy?

['Abbas] Of course not. The current solution is fully in line with the present situation, which is not a normal situation. A solution that would end the conflict should necessarily take into account the interests and rights of the Palestinian and Arab peoples. I can see no current solution to the conflict. However, I can see a form of truce imposed by the influential world forces. The extent of these forces' influence may perpetuate or shorten such a truce. [passage omitted]

Hamas Calls For More 'Anti-Zionist' Operations

NC0606054094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
6 Jun 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has stated that it will intensify its anti-Zionist operations. In a statement issued yesterday, Hamas once again condemned the accord between the PLO and the Zionist regime and called on its combatants to intensify their anti-Zionist operations. Hamas also called on the Palestinians in the occupied territories to go on a general strike on Thursday [9 June], the 79th month of the Palestinians' uprising.

Hamas Issues Leaflet on Jerusalem

TA0606073294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Palestinian leaders in the territories are focusing efforts on East Jerusalem, mainly in a bid to lift the closure which has separated the city from the rest of the territories. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has distributed a leaflet in the territories calling for an exacerbation of the battle until Jerusalem is liberated. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin Amir recording] A senior Palestinian source stressed yesterday that PLO supporters will focus their political activity on the issue of East Jerusalem. The source stressed that the Palestinians will not remain silent in the face of demonstrations by the Israeli right wing, such as that organized by the Likud yesterday outside the Old City's walls. Faysal al-Husayni will hold a discussion on Jerusalem this afternoon at the Orient House building and report on the latest steps taken by the Israeli Government against Palestinian institutions in the eastern part of the city.

Hamas has also exhorted its followers to put an emphasis on the struggle over Jerusalem. In a special leaflet distributed in the territories yesterday, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam members were called upon to step up activities against Israel until what the leaflet described as the liberation of all of the homeland, including Jerusalem.

The Palestinian source explained that the PLO will now concentrate its efforts on lifting the closure on East Jerusalem, which has severed the city from the territories.

In discussions held yesterday by Palestinian self-government officials in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the police commanders in both areas expressed praise for the rapid organization of the Palestinian forces and noted that they believe the police are operating smoothly and satisfactorily despite all the difficulties.

General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, who was head of the Palestinian delegation on security affairs in the peace negotiations, crossed through the Rafah border terminal into the Gaza Strip yesterday. Gen. al-Yahya will be in charge of public security in the autonomous areas, together with Police Commander Nasr Yusuf.

An advance force of 36 Palestinian intelligence officers has arrived in Jericho. The men received training in intelligence work in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunis. They will mainly be in charge of the PLO's military intelligence. [end recording]

Western Decisions on Israeli Arms Embargo Hit

NC0406155694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 May 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The Flow of Western Weapons Does Not Serve the Peace Process"]

[Text] Douglas Hurd, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, has justified the British Government's decision to lift the arms embargo of Israel as a result of the encouraging developments in the peace process. To hide the reality of its bias toward Israel in making this decision, Hurd suggested that Britain is ready to reconsider the arms embargo the European Union has imposed on Syria, but only if the Syrian-Israeli negotiations make progress.

The British decision is strange in more ways than one. It is clearly biased toward Israel, since it provides that country with the chance to stockpile more weapons within the framework of what is called qualitative military superiority, which the West in general and the United States in particular have tried to secure for Israel over the years in confronting the Arab World. It is also strange because this decision is wrapped in the slogan of peace. Everyone knows that weapons are the exact opposite of true peace and that any progress toward peace requires a real decrease in armaments and strict supervision of the weapons in the region. These topics are supposed to be handled by the multilateral armament supervision committee, which came out of the Madrid conference.

In fact, the British decision was not the only one that contradicts the spirit and goals of the peace process in the region. Since the convention of the Madrid peace conference, the United States has provided Israel with many guarantees that it will enable that country to continue its military superiority and will continue to provide it with huge military aid. France also agreed with Israel recently to terminate the freeze on military cooperation between the two sides.

Thus, at a time when the West is hoisting the banner of bolstering the peace process in the region, in practice it is bolstering Israel's military power, which contradicts the objectives of the peace process and the roles the United States and Europe are supposed to play. This also strengthens the existing doubts that the talk about peace is contrary to real intentions. Who needs weapons during the age of peace? Who will these arms be directed against?

The essential question posed to Britain and other countries that are hastening to change their previous stances that were based on the major causes of the conflict, foremost of which is the Israeli occupation, is: Has the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories ended? And does taking new stances really contribute toward ending this occupation and eliminating the reasons for the Arab-Israeli conflict, or are they a new contribution by the West to strengthen Israel's adherence to the stances that it still proposes to this day and that are the major obstacles to a just peace?

Egypt

Presidential Statement on Fighting in Yemen

NC0606100194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Statement from the Presidential Office in Heliopolis, Cairo on 6 June—read by announcer]

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt looks with deep concern and sorrow at the serious escalation of military operations in sister Yemen over the past few days; the escalation that has expanded the scope of war and intensified its repercussions and negative reflections. The situation is no longer restricted to bloodshed and the annihilation of lives; destruction has now extended to economic institutions and oil foundations. This involves dire risks that undermine the interests of the Yemeni people, both in the north and south, and further complicates the regional situation.

It is strange that this regrettable escalation should occur in spite of the numerous assurances Egypt has received from the Yemeni leadership, which pledged not to touch the oil foundations or economic institutions. These institutions belong to the Yemeni people and are crucial to secure their livelihood and develop their present and future resources. Accordingly, no one has the right to tamper with them or use them as a bargaining chip or instrument to put pressure.

Egypt regrets the continued and intensified bloodshed in spite of the Arab League appeals, the efforts it exerted, and the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 924 which calls for an immediate cease-fire.

Appealing to officials in sister Yemen to avert further deterioration and to sincerely comply with the resolutions of the Arab household and the international legitimacy, Egypt denounces any action that would lead to the continuation or escalation of warfare.

South Yemen's al-'Attas Arrives on Visit

NC0506140194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, head of the government that has been announced recently in Aden, arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Jeddah on a short visit to Egypt. Al-'Attas' visit to Cairo is part of a tour he is making of a number of Arab countries.

In an arrival statement, al-'Attas said that his visit is part of the consultations with Egypt over the ongoing war in Yemen following the Security Council's resolution in this regard. He added: Sanaa is continuing the war and we are continuing our consultations with the officials in Egypt, the fraternal Arab countries, and the international community to adopt the necessary measures to end this war and begin negotiations and dialogue between the Yemeni north and the south to tackle the various aspects of the situation. He added: We are in need of medical supplies and medicines, because many people are sick and wounded. He noted that many of those are receiving treatment in hospitals in Egypt and other sister countries.

Asked about the continued fighting in Yemen, al-'Attas said that the Democratic Republic of Yemen has declared its clear-cut and explicit commitment to the Security Council resolution, but Sanaa, unfortunately, is still procrastinating in this matter, has not made a clear or definite decision, and in the past few days launched attacks against vital installations, oil refineries, and electricity facilities. He pointed out that these inhumane actions will destroy Yemen's infrastructure. Al-'Attas concluded his remarks by saying that he made certain today that both Iraq and Jordan are supplying Sanaa with weapons and spare parts, as he put it.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0506193194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1856 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas this evening. Also attending the meeting on the Yemeni side were Muhsin Bin-Farid, Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, and 'Abd-al-Jalil Ghilan. Dr. Usmah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary, also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the Yemeni leaders reviewed the developments in the situation in Yemen and the ongoing military battles.

Mubarak Telephones 'Arafat, Inquires About Health

NC0306185994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Tunis, 3 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received a telephone call today from President Husni Mubarak, who inquired about 'Arafat's health after recovering from his recent ailment.

'Arafat thanked President Mubarak for this kind gesture.

Police Detain 10 Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC0506140994 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 5 (AFP)—Egyptian police have detained 10 leaders of the outlawed Moslem Brotherhood and plan to hold them for 15 days for questioning, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi said Sunday.

He told the semi-official newspaper AL-AHRAM the men were rounded up "a few days ago" on charges of hampering the execution of court rulings. He refused to identify the men and did not specify the charges.

Although the Moslem Brotherhood was banned in 1954, it has been largely tolerated by the Egyptian government because of its non- violent stance.

Some of its members have in the past joined the parliament in coalition with other parties.

But the government has lost patience with the group after it took part in rallies last month protesting the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani, who died while in police custody.

Four members were also arrested last month for allegedly distributing anti-government leaflets. Brotherhood leader Hamid Abu-al-Nasr was questioned on Sunday on the same charges, after answering a summons.

Moslem militants have been waging a two-year campaign to topple the government of President Husni Mubarak in which close to 400 people have been killed.

Brotherhood Leader Interrogated

NC0506184894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—The northern al-Jizah Prosecution Office today interrogated Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr over leaflets that were distributed after the 'Id al- Adha prayers. These leaflets, which bore the signature of Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, advocated views and terms opposed to the regime. Public attorney counselor Muhammad 'Arafah confronted Abu-al-Nasr with these leaflets. Abu-al-Nasr stated that they indeed were issued by him. The Prosecution Office decided to complete interrogation with him tomorrow morning, 6 June.

The security authorities arrested four youths who were distributing leaflets bearing the signature of the Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr. They were referred to the Prosecution Office which ordered them put in jail pending further interrogation. The Prosecution Office decided to summon Abu-al-Nasir to hear his testimony.

15 Protesters From Lawyers' Disturbance Released

NC0606050094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—The central Cairo prosecution office decided today to release 15 persons, including three lawyers, who took part in the disturbances that took place in the Lawyers Syndicate offices on 17 May.

The office also decided to postpone its review of the detention of 33 other lawyers, including three members of the syndicate council—Khalid Badawi, Mukhtar Nuh, and Jalal 'Uthman—until 14 June and meanwhile to continue their detention.

The prosecution has lodged several charges against each of them, including criminal conspiracy, illegal assembling, starting rumors that threaten social peace and security, staging unlicensed demonstrations, shouting slogans to create sedition, destroying some installations, and attacking policemen.

Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists' in Shoot-Out

NC0306190394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Tama, Suhaj, 3 Jun (MENA)—Four terrorists were killed in the area of Naj' Awlad Qasim in al-Hima village, Tama urban center in the governorate of Suhaj, early this morning.

A force of the State Security Detectives accompanied by the Central Security Forces of the Suhaj Security Directorate, surrounded the terrorists' hideout. The terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with the force.

An officer and three soldiers from the force that stormed the terrorists' hideout were wounded during the exchange.

Officials from the Suhaj Security Directorate and the criminology laboratory went to the scene of the incident to inspect and the Prosecutor's office was told to launch an investigation.

'Source' Denies Recent Arms Supply to Rwanda

NC0406181694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated that Egypt has not supplied the Government of Rwanda with any weapons or ammunition since the outbreak of the conflict in Rwanda. No contracts for the supply of weapons or ammunition have been concluded since the start of the Rwandan conflict. Egypt has suspended the delivery of weapons contracted prior to the outbreak of the conflict in Rwanda, the source added.

The source made this statement to comment on reports broadcast by the Rwandan Front's radio that Egypt has recently sold 33 tons of weapons worth $765,000 to the Government of Rwanda. The responsible source concluded his comment by saying that what has been delivered under earlier contracts preceded the outbreak of the conflict and was part a commercial deal concluded with Rwanda, similar what has been done with other countries. The implementation of the remainder of the contract was suspended immediately after the outbreak of the internal conflict in Rwanda. The source added that Egypt is eager to stop the bloodshed in Rwanda and halt anything that may subject the Rwandan people to further destruction.

Libya

Chadian President Deby, Delegation Visits

Wants 'New Era of Cooperation'

LD0306211594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Excerpts] President Idriss Deby of Chad and accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Deby was welcomed on arrival in Tripoli by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunus Jabir, some members of the secretariat of the General People's Congress, and the secretary and members of the General People's Committee. [passage omitted]

After his arrival, President Idriss Deby made a statement to JANA in which he said: I am extremely happy at being here today on the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah, the friendly country with which we share several common elements, including our history, blood, and culture. I am visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to discuss, strengthen and bolster our relations, and to look for further ways to promote fruitful and useful cooperation.

I would like, in the name of Chad, to thank the Libyan people and its leadership for the courage and understanding they have shown regarding the implementation of the International Court of Justice's resolution [on the Aouzou Strip], an element which could not be neglected. We believe that it is now time to open a new era of cooperation. My visit comes within this framework. [passage omitted]

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0406155394 Tripoli JANA in English 1439 GMT 4 Jun 94

[All punctuation as received]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 4, JANA—The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received the president of the Republic of Chad Idriss Deby and the delegation in his company including the ministers of the interior, foreign affairs, agriculture and heads of political parties.

During this meeting, President Idriss Deby expressed high appreciation of the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people which is linked with the Chadian people with bonds of blood, history and culture.

The president stressed the desire of the Chadian people for the enhancement of cooperation and complementarity with the Libyan Arab people in all fields.

In a speech during this meeting, President Idriss Deby declared 'I came with a big delegation from the provisional parliament, the government, heads of political parties which have been set up recently. The composition of the delegation accompanying me is meaningful. We have come to the Great Jamahiriyah to present to your leader of the revolution and the whole Libyan Arab people our gratitude and thanks for the efforts you exerted and endeavours you dedicated to the ending of the problem which existed between Libya and Chad and lasted for more than 22 years and to which a solution was found.

President Idriss Deby added 'I reassure you personally and your people that we have come with an open hart to show mankind that we can create a new form of cooperation between us for the cloud which troubled our rleations had melted and that the trust which prevailed between our two peoples will take a new turn and that the Chadian people highly appreciate this step which resulted in greater understanding between our two countries.

President Deby concluded his speech by saying 'Once again, I thank you on behalf of the Chadian people and the delegation in my company. Chad and its people wish to consolidate the trust between our two countries and peoples and to open a new page for fruitful cooperation in all fields for the benefit of the two peoples.

Present at the meeting were the secretary and members of the general people's committee for unity, the secretary of the people's committee for justice and public order, the secretary of the Libyan Arab people's bureau to Chad and the Chadian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Deby, al-Qadhdhafi Address Meeting

LD0406222794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] and President Idriss Deby of Chad this morning attended the opening session of the Arab Libyan-Chadian talks to boost and promote bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

The brother leader of the revolution made an address in which he said:

[Begin Al-Qadhdhafi recording] In the name of God. We welcome our dear brother President Idriss Deby, and the high-level delegation accompanying him. We thank him for paying this visit. They are at home, among their brethren. Their visit at this time is considered as standing on the side of their brother the Libyan people in this confrontation [as heard], and their presence among us lifts the morale of their Libyan brothers. We are meeting now that all the problems that were pending between the two countries are finished. This was realized with the victory of fraternal will. The Libyan people sacrified a great deal in order to help their brother the Chadian people in a long battle in which victory was won by the Chadian people, a victory which is also considered as a victory of the Libyan people at this hour. Now we can cooperate hand in hand for construction and edification, and in order to consolidate brotherhood between the two fraternal peoples. In fact, the Libyan people and the Chadian people are of the same origin. [passage omitted]

We are happy with this meeting today, and in accordance with our common wish we are founding the basis for a joint strategic action for the good of the two peoples. The two countries have considerable potentials which, if integrated and exploited in a common program, will greatly benefit the two peoples. Those who consider Chad as being poor are mistaken. Chad has a basic capital: It is rich in raw materials, most important of which is water. Libya has known potentials, and each country needs the other. Each country has its own important possibilities. With fraternal spirit and revolutionary will we can integrate these resources and exploit them for the good of the two peoples. [passage omitted] [end recording]

President Idriss Deby then made a speech in which he said:

[Begin Deby recording, in French, followed by Arabic translation; translated from the French] Brother leader of the Libyan revolution; on behalf of the delegation accompanying me I thank you very sincerely, yourself and your government, for the very warm and fratern welcome accorded us. On the same occasion, and as I said yesterday during our meeting, I have come here at the head of a very important delegation consisting of members of the government, the pariament and political parties in order to salute the courage of the leader of the Libyan revolution, the Libyan people and its goverment for having done their utmost in resolving the problem which for more than two decades constituted a major handicap in our relations. [passage omitted] We can say that a new era of cooperation opens today between our two peoples. You mentioned that the Libyan people shed its blood for the Chadian people and the Chadian people shed its blood for the Libyan people. They are two peoples that have many things in common, and the time has come for us to make of our space a space of fruitful cooperation, a space for peace, a space for development for the benefit of our two peoples, who have much in common, as I said.

Brother leader of the revolution; your role and that of Libya in the development of Chad is very important. We consider that your brothers in Chad, in this precise framework, need unlimited support to enable them to resolve their problems and the difficulties they often face. We believe that this visit is a first of its kind, which in our view will permit the laying down of the foundation stone of peace, friendships and cooperation. This will also enable commissions to meet to examine all the possibilities of cooperation between our two countries, without limits.

Brother leader of the Libyan revolution; be assured that the Chadian people support the Libyan people in their difficulties, in their problems. The Libyan people will not betray this position of principle, a global, African and Arab position of principle. Thank you. [end recording]

Signs Cooperation Agreement

LD0506114494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0716 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jun—A friendship, goodneighborliness, and cooperation agreement between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad was signed yesterday.

The brother leader of the revolution and Chadian President Idriss Deby signed this historic agreement in the process of consolidating cooperative relations and economic and social integration between the two fraternal peoples who belong to a single African, Arab civilized character, with all the basic factors of unity of blood and history and a single destiny.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges France To Leave Chad

LD0506152794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Remarks by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at ceremony presenting award to Chadian President Idriss Deby in Tripoli on 4 June]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Since when has France defended freedom in Africa? France is a mortal enemy to the African peoples. It is the power that colonized and destroyed it, exploited its wealth, and despised its people. It is still spreading its domination over Africa by military force, and has not recognized the independence of the African states, including Chad. It considers them its colonies and works toward creating an international status before the United States and in Europe via its domination of the African continent. It has created for that purpose the traditional annual Francophone summit. This imperialist policy is exposed and condemned by the African peoples. What justification does France have to keep its forces in Chad after the end of the border dispute between Libya and Chad? It used to claim that there was an occupied Chadian territory and that there was a border dispute to keep its military forces to defend Chad. What will France say after this dispute comes to an end? How will it justify its presence in Chad after today? Certainly, there is no justification, except that it wants to occupy Chadian territory and wants Chad to remain its colony; otherwise it should go back to where it came from. [passage omitted]

Praises Libya

LD0506142194 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1112 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Jun—President Idriss Deby, president of the Republic of Chad, stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah is a country that works for peace and endeavors for dignified living.

In a statement to JANA before leaving Tripoli this morning, President Idriss Deby said that the Great Jamahiriyah respects international law and its commitments toward the international community.

President Deby said that "we will have the opportunity to say that. I am happy with that, and this is reality."

Joint Communique Issued

LD0506151694 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jun 94

["Text" of joint Libyan-Chadian communique, issued in Tripoli on 5 June]

[Text] At an invitation of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, brother leader of the Great al-Fatih revolution, and in the framework of the relations of fraternity and friendship linking the Republic of Chad and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [GSPLAJ], Colonel Idriss Deby, president of the Republic of Chad, paid a working and friendly visit to the GSPLAJ at the head of an important delegation from 3-5 June 1994. The great guest and the delegation accompanying him enjoyed a popular and official welcome, which expressed the depth of the relations linking the two fraternal peoples.

Very important bilateral talks took place between the brother leader of the revolution and President Idriss Deby, at which prevailed an atmosphere of friendship and common understanding and which covered a number of issues at the bilateral, African, and international levels.

The brother leader of the revolution briefed his great guest on the achievements of the Great al-Fatih Revolution in the political, economic, cultural, and social fields. He informed him also of the intellectual and practical foundations of people's authority, which enabled the Libyan Arab people to practise their authority through their people's congresses and committees without having anybody to act on their behalf or represent them.

President Deby informed his brother, the leader of the revolution, of the political and economic program of the Chadian Government and its efforts in the field of economic and social development in a way that consolidates stability and security for the Chadian people. In the field of bilateral relations, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the continuous development of their strong relations and fruitful cooperation and stressed the need to adopt the necessary measures to consolidate the bilateral relations in all fields and achieve economic and social cooperation between the two countries. The two sides stressed the need to find the suitable mechanisms to guarantee the follow-up and implementation of all the agreements and minutes of meetings through the joint committee and ensure a permanent supervision by the leaderships of the two countries, within the framework of direct contacts and consultations.

During the visit, a treaty of friendship and cooperation, which consolidates the relations between the two fraternal countries, was signed.

The Chadian side was informed of the Lockerbie issue and the mandatory sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab people and the negative effects on the human and economic levels that have affected the Libyan Arab people and the neighboring states, including the Republic of Chad. The Chadian side expressed its solidarity with the Libyan Arab people against these unjust measures and expressed support for Arab, African, and international efforts to find an urgent and just solution to this question, which concerns the region as a whole, through direct dialogue in a way that protects security and peace in the region. In this context, the two sides expressed their regret for the way the UN Security Council deals with this issue and expressed their anxiety about the intervention policy applied to small states.

On the African level, the two sides welcome the political transformations in South Africa and its joining the OAU. They express their annoyance at the continuation of armed conflicts in various parts of the continent and the destruction they leave behind both in human and material levels. The two sides stressed the need for the OAU to find the efficient solutions to the problems of the continent and stressed the importance of Arab-African cooperation in general and the development of cooperation between the Arab Maghreb states and the states of Central and West Africa in particular. They stressed the importance of consultations between the states of the African Sahel and the GSPLAJ.

They stress that the debt issue is heavy on most African states and that the exemplary solution to this question lies in the control by African states of their natural resources and wealth and the setting up of an equitable economic order that secures and helps stability and development in African states.

At the end of the visit, Chadian President Idriss Deby expressed his great thanks and appreciation to the brother Colonle Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, and to the Libyan Arab people for the generous hospitality and warm fraternal welcome devoted to him and the delegation accompanying him.

His Excellency President Idriss Deby extended an invitation to the brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, to visit the Republic of Chad, which he accepted with gratitude. Its date will be fixed later.

Written in Tripoli on 4 June 1994

Tripoli Condemns Israeli 'Massacre' in Lebanon

LD0306120094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0925 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Beirut, 3 Jun (JANA)—The Israeli enemy has perpetrated an abominable massacre in the heart of Lebanese territory against Lebanese nationals, which left 45 dead and over 70 others injured. This attack, which targeted densely populated areas, showed total disregard for international conventions and charters.

Israeli war planes yesterday launched air raids on several villages and towns north of Ba'labak, and these raids also caused extensive damage to property. Press reports indicate that the Israeli planes dropped large quantities of bombs and tried to land but were prevented from doing so by the Lebanese antiaircraft defense on the ground. [passage omitted]

A source at the General People's Committee for Unity stated last week that the Israeli enemy is continuing its aggression against the Arab nation and is violating its sovereignty and territory with its military arsenal and weapons of destruction supplied by the West, mainly the

U.S. Government, in a blatant defiance of all international resolutions. Moreover, their conspiratorial acts are stepped up whenever they want to impose further capitulation on the Arab regimes against the will of the masses, which reject defeat and surrender.

The violations and the aggression taking place today against Lebanon's sovereignty and its Arab people must be an incentive for frustrating all attempts of capitulation and attempts to impose the fait accompli. It must also be an incentive for confronting this act of aggression with the responsibility required by the Arab charters, foremost the Joint Arab Defense Treaty, so that Lebanon is no longer a daily target for the aggression of the Israelis and their savage raids, whose aim is to attack civilians and break the strong spirit of resistance to the Israeli enemy and to the occupation.

Proceeding from the constants of the great 1 September revolution and in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Basic People's Congresses, which stressed the need to confront the continuous imperialist-backed Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, the General People's Committee for Unity in the Great Jamahiriyah condemns Israel's terrorism, which is manifested in its continued occupation of Arab territories, from southern Lebanon to the Golan Heights and in the Umm Rashrash [Elat] area. It also condemns its practice of aggression and its kidnapping of civilians, which nobody tries to prevent the Israeli entity from following. We also call for the implementation of the Arab charters and treaties to confront this situation.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Wife Meets Mother of Dead UK Policewoman

LD0506222094 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, 5 June—Sister A'ishah Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday afternoon received Mrs. Queenie Fletcher, the mother of British policewoman Yvonne Fletcher who was accidentally killed in front of the Arab People's Bureau in London 10 years ago. The British authorities wanted to accuse the Libyan Arab side before any impartial joint investigation, which the Great Jamahiriyah was very keen on, provided that it would include all the parties involved in the clashes, whether those who were attacking, those in a position of defense, and those who were present [words indistinct] their presence in the area was merely coincidental.

Sister A'ishah expressed her sympathy to Mrs. Fletcher on the loss of her daughter and Mrs. Fletcher in turn expressed her sympathy on the loss of the Qadhdhafi family's daughter, Hana'.

Sister A'ishah saluted the brave step taken by Mrs. Fletcher by coming to the Great Jamahiriyah to acquaint herself with the civilizational project of the Arab Libyan people and see for herself the consequences of the aggression and the consequences of the unfair measures imposed by Western countries on the Great Jamahiriyah through the so-called Security Council.

Mrs. Fletcher rejected that the regrettable incident which led to the death of her daughter Yevoun be exploited in harming the Libyan Arab people and its relations with British people.

Sister A'ishah Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has extended an open invitation to Mrs. Fletcher to visit the Great Jamahiriyah which would remember her, as well as history between the two countries would, that her initiative had closed the road before whoever intends to harm the relations between the two peoples and had opened the way for establishing good relations between them.

It is worth mentioning that sister A'ishah Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had informed Mrs. Fletcher that she could assume that she has a daughter in Great Jamahiriyah fully prepared to cooperate with her to turn the names of "Yevon" and "Hana'" into a symbol of and a testimony on the end of the era of brute force and the prevalence of the era of law, justice, and right and on the extension of bridges of amity, love, and peace.

Mrs. Fletcher had left Great Jamahiriyah following a five-day visit.

Morocco

King Discusses Peace Process With Israel's Peres

LD0306153794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The Information Ministry has issued the following statement:

His Majesty King Hassan II, God make him victorious, received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the royal court in Rabat on the evening of 2 June 1994.

During the meeting, Peres briefed the king on the stages of the peace process in the Middle East and his perceptions of the future and development of this process. On his part, the king reaffirmed to his guest Morocco's continued efforts to establish a just peace in the Middle East region.

Finally, his majesty the king confirmed to Peres that he has accepted an invitation to chair the international economic summit on the development of Middle Eastern countries which is scheduled to be held in Marrakech at the beginning of November.

Spokesman on Possible Relations With Israel

LD0406140094 Rabat MAP in English 1304 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Rabat, June 4 (MAP)—Asked on the statement of Israeli foreign minister who affirmed that "it is possible that by the end of the year, Morocco and Israel open interest offices", spokesman of the Moroccan Foreign Department said that "if the Israeli party raised the issue, the Kingdom of Morocco made no decision on the subject".

"The Kingdom of Morocco, the spokesman specified, still regards that such a decision depends on the resolutions of the Arab League and remains dependent on the results to be achieved in the Middle East peace process ".

The Israeli minister of foreign affairs said Friday [3 June] at a press conference upon arrival in Tel Aviv "it is possible that by the end of the year, Morocco and Israel open interests offices".

He also said that the international economic summit conference on the development of Middle East nations which was initially scheduled in Jordan, will be held next fall in Morocco.

King Hassan II Thursday received in Rabat Shim'on Peres who informed the sovereign on the stages covered in the Middle East peace process and on his conception regarding the future of the process.

The sovereign for his part reaffirmed that Morocco will continue on its endeavoring to set a fair peace in the Middle East region.

The sovereign also confirmed to Shim'on Peres he accepted to chair the conference which will open in Marrakesh in the first days of November.

Sudan

Spokesman Claims Rebels 'Totally Contained'

EA0406150094 Khartoum SUNA in French 1640 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Armed Forces Spokesman Brigadier General Muhammad Bashir has stated that the rebel movement is totally contained, following the liberation of the regions of (Moryo), west of Bahr al-Jabal, and Pageri, east of Bahr al-Jabal, in southern Sudan, by the Sudanese Armed Forces. Brig. Gen. Bashir indicated in a statement, published in the 3 June edition of AL-INQADH AL-WATANI in Khartoum, that the town of Pageri was strategically important, and that it was rebel Garang's main miltiary stronghold.

He stressed the Armed Forces' commitment to the state policy of making efforts to transport supplies to war victims. On this subject he dismissed information spread by foreign news organizations, that the Armed Forces were hindering the work of organizations operating in the relief sector. He said that the Sudanese Armed Forces remained committed to the relief provision agreement for those affected in southern Sudan.

Official Says Rebels Attack Relief Train

EA0406144094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Aghbashi, the general commissioner for relief and rehabilitation, has reported that a relief column was attacked and plundered last week by the scattered remnants of the rebellion's army, while on its journey from Babanusah to Wau. The relief column was carrying 1,500 tonnes of food, destined for distribution in areas affected by the war.

Dr. al-Aghbash condemned this attack, which constitutes a violation of agreements pertaining to the transportation of relief supplies, which guarantees safety for relief convoys, as signed by the government and the rebels under the auspices of the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Agency on Drought and Development [IGADD] states.

The United Nations, which supervises Operation Lifeline's activities in providing relief to the south, has presented a formal protest to the rebel movement in Nairobi regarding this attack, considering it to be a violation of the agreements on relief.

It may be recalled that the last agreement in this regard was signed on 17 May under the auspices of the IGADD committee, under which the number of relief areas was increased from 21 to 84.

Al-Bashir Sends Message to Sanaa Leadership

EA0506191594 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 5 June (SUNA)—The president of Yemen, General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, received Saturday [4 June] a message from his brother General 'Umar al-Bashir the president of the Republic, which was handed to him by the minister of culture and information 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat. Sabdarat who returned here from Sanaa on Saturday stated to SUNA that the message was in reply of a message sent to al-Bashir by Salih, which was handed to him by the Yemeni president's envoy Yahya Husayn al-Arashi, who visited Khartoum recently.

He also said the message affirmed Sudan's stance toward Yemen and its concern with Yemen unity, besides ceasefire in Yemen to stop the bloodshed there.

GCC Foreign Ministers Hold 51st Session in Abha

Saudi Minister Addresses Meeting

LD0406200594 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In Abha this afternoon, their highnesses the foreign ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member countries began the meetings of the 51st session of the GCC Ministerial Council. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and chairman of the session, delivered an address at the opening meeting in which he said:

[Begin al-Faysal recording] [passage omitted] Brothers, while we are holding this periodic session of ours, our brothers in fraternal and neighboring Yemen are facing difficult and painful conditions resulting from the outbreak of disputes between the brothers. This led to this country and its people, which is dear to all of us, entering a whirlwind of violence and internecine bloody fighting, causing a large number of Yemeni victims every day in both the north and south. At the same time, the installations and potential of this country are being subjected to destruction.

From the start, the GCC member countries sought to urge our brothers in Yemen to work for what is likely to spare fraternal Yemen the horrors of war and internecine fighting, and in so doing member countries supported the various mediation efforts, and took the initiative, through several contacts with the leaderships of the two parties to the conflict, to warn them against the dire consequences of the escalating disputes between them, and to incite them to seek understanding and concord between them. However, despite all the efforts and mediation, matters have taken a grave turn and reached the point of armed confrontation between the brothers in a bitter conflict that makes hearts feel pain. [passage omitted]

What must be always present in our minds while we discuss this matter is that the internecine fighting can in no way entrench or protect unity. Quite the contrary, because the persistence of bloody confrontation can only create rancor and lead to deepening estrangement and differences. It will also undermine the bases on which the foundations of harmony and understanding could be built. If, in its Resolution No. 924 of 1 June 1994, the UN Security Council has stressed the eagerness of the international community to secure stability and an end to the fighting in Yemen, this eagerness is stronger in the GCC. Therefore, our council must issue an affirmation that the continuation of the fighting is not acceptable to us, whatever the cause and source. Likewise, continuation of the fighting will have repercussions on the GCC member countries, which will lead to the need for member countries to take measures concerning this escalating situation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] With regard to relations with Iran, his highness said: We have not been able, until now, to find in Islamic Republic of Iran's policies anything that can put trust and reassurance in our minds, which would be by Iran's commitment to international conventions based on mutual respect and noninterference in other states' internal affairs.

His highness the foreign minister expressed the Council's member states pleasure at the beginning by the Palestinian brothers of a new era of effective practice of their national rights on a part of their territory, following the agreement signed in Cairo in Dhi al Qi'dah 1414 AH, corresponding to May 1994, for taking over authority in Gaza and Jericho from Israel.

On the situation in the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina, his highness said: Although only a short time has passed since we expressed our optimism regarding the agreement reached by Muslims and Croats with regard to setting up a union between them, we see now the Serb's continuation in their oppression and aggression against Bosnian Muslims, and their defiance of the successive resolutions of international legality for bringint to an end the Serbian aggression and protection of the safe Bosnian areas.

After this, the opening session was adjourned.

Further on Saudi Minister's Remarks

LD0506163194 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Abha, Saudi Arabia, June 5, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said continuation of fighting in Yemen will have repercussions on the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states.

Addressing the 51st session of the GCC Ministerial Council here last night, Prince Sa'ud said the brothers in Yemen are passing through difficult circumstances and sad events due to the continuation of violence and fighting in their country.

Yemenis are killed in north and south and properties are destroyed as the result of the bloody fighting, he said.

Prince Sa'ud noted that the GCC member states, since the beginning, had appealed to the brothers in Yemen to avoid their country woes of war and settle their dispute through peaceful means.

Despite the efforts exerted to end the war, yet bloody fighting continued in Yemen, he said.

Prince Sa'ud noted that during the pilgrimage season Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in a personal initiative, called the conflicting parties in Yemen to cease fighting taking into account the sanctity of the hajj season and the feelings of the Muslims.

But we were taken by surprise when the military operations continued, he said.

When we discuss this issue we should bear in mind that fighting will never enhance the pillars of unity, on the contrary it will deepen the feelings of hatred and disunity, he said.

Prince Sa'ud said the UN's Security Council, in its resolution Number 924, issued in June 1, reiterated the keenness of the international community on stability in Yemen.

As continuation of fighting in Yemen will have repercussions on the GCC member states, the GCC Ministerial Council should issue a resolution to reiterate that continuation of fighting is an unacceptable matter, he said and added in the light of the adverse impact of the war, it will be an essential matter to take measures vis-a-vis such situation.

Prince Sa'ud deplored the maneuvers of the Iraqi regime and its procrastination in implementing the resolutions issued by the Security Council following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Iraq has been following a selective policy regarding the resolutions issued by the Security Council, he said.

Till now the Iraqi regime has not announced its respect to Kuwait's sovereignty and independence, he said and added announcement of Iraq to its respect to Kuwait's sovereignty and independence constitutes the core of the international resolutions.

He noted that the failure of the Iraqi regime to implement the international resolutions had forced the Security Council to continue imposition of sanctions on Iraq.

We call the Iraq regime to implement the Security Council's Resolutions 706 and 712 so as to pave the way for ending the sufferings of the Iraqi people, he said.

On relations with Iran, Prince Sa'ud said "we have not yet get confident that Iran will adhere to the international conventions and norms based on the principle of mutual respect and non-interference in the domestic affairs of the other countries."

But yet we are optimistic that the causes which affect the nature of the existing relations between the GCC member states and Iran will come to an end, he added.

Prince Sa'ud said the problem of the three islands constitutes one of the main obstacles that prevent growth of Gulf-Iranian relations.

The initiative of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan to settle the dispute of the three islands through dialogue constitutes a declaration of good intentions, he said.

Prince Sa'ud expressed happiness over the new era started by the Palestinians to practice their national rights on part of their territories following the agreement signed in Cairo in last May.

He hoped that this development would be an initial step towards a comprehensive settlement for the Arab-Israeli dispute in a manner that leads to the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem in line with the Resolutions 242, 338 and 425.

Our countries have supported the peace steps and will continue to do so, he said.

On the other hand, Prince Sa'ud deplored the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and said the aggression does not only constitute a flagrant aggression on an independent and UN's member state, but it also runs counter to the Israeli adherence towards the peace process.

We call on the UN and the Security Council to take the appropriate measures that prevent recurrence of such aggression and guarantee the implementation of the Resolution 425 issued by the Security Council on Lebanon.

On Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prince Sa'ud condemned the Serb aggression on the Muslims in violation to the international resolutions.

He noted that the refusal of the Serbs to withdraw from the Bosnian city of Gorazde reflects their unwillingness to positively respond with the ongoing international efforts to settle the dispute.

It is high time for the UN and international community to put pressure on the Serbs until they comply with the international resolutions, he said.

Action Warned If Yemen Fighting Continues

LD0506165494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1506 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Abha, 5 Jun—The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries' foreign ministers have stressed today that "the continuation of the fighting in Yemen would lead the countries of the GCC Council to take appropriate stances toward the side that does not abide by the cease-fire, after consultations with Arab and international parties about the measures necessary to be taken by the Security Council vis-a-vis this escalating situation in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter."

The ministers also stressed, in the final communique they released after the end of their current session, that "it is absolutely impossible to impose this unity by military means."

They noted that the union, which was set up by agreement between the two independent states—the Yemen Arab Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen in May 1990—"cannot continue except by the consent of the two parties."

The final press release said that "faced with the fait accompli of the fact that one of the parties announced its decision to revert back to the former status of two republics and the setting up of a the Democratic Republic of Yemen, the two parties can only deal with this situation through peaceful means."

The press release added that "in consideration of the motives of the sincere sons of Yemen regarding unity, the two sides can deal with situation only within a framework of peaceful methods."

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, chairman of the current GCC ministerial session, refused to comment on whether the final press release meant putting political pressure on the side that did not accept a cease- fire. He said: "I have no more details to give other than the ones mentioned in the final press release."

The GCC's ministerial council urged Yemen's leaders to put the Yemen's interests and its people above all considerations and to respond immediately to UN Security Council Resolution 924 to stop military operations immediately and to resort to dialogue in order to stop bloodshed and protect lives and possessions.

The council expressed "sorrow for the continuation of the fighting despite the issuing of the UN resolution."

The council statement said that "the continuation between the two parties made leaders in southern Yemen declare the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen." [sentence as received]

The statement clarified that "although the council appreciates the sincere motives of Yemen's sons for unity, it confirms that it cannot impose this unity through military means."

5 Countries 'Implicitly' Recognize South

NC0506152594 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Abha, Saudi Arabia, June 5 (AFP)—Five Gulf Arab states on Sunday [5 June] implicitly recognized the breakaway southern state declared after the outbreak of Yemen's civil war.

Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) termed as "a fait accompli the declaration by one of the parties of the Yemen Democratic Republic and the return to the situation" before the country was unified in 1990.

Only Qatar voiced reservations on the statement issued in the Saudi town of Abha by its partners in the GCC—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Communique Urges Yemen To Halt War

LD0506201594 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Their Highnesses the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers this afternoon ended the meetings of the 51st session of the Ministerial Council, which was held in the city of Abha and lasted for two days.

At the end of the meeting, GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi read the press release, which said the following:

[Begin al-Qasimi recording] The Ministerial Council followed with great anxiety the painful developments in Yemen and the consequences of the continuation of the internecine fighting, which made the leaders in South Yemen declare the setting up of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. In this context the council welcomed the issuance of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 and expressed its great regret for the continued fighting despite the issuance of that resolution.

If the UN Security Council stressed in its Resolution 924 the eagerness of the international community to protect peace and stability in Yemen, this eagerness increases within the framework of the GCC; thus, the council calls on the Yemeni leaders to put the interests of Yemen and its people above all considerations and to respond immediately to the requirements of the UN Security Council by ending the military operations forthwith and having recourse to dialogue in order to avoid bloodshed and protect lives and property.

On the premise of the fact that unity is a request of the sons of the Arab nation, the council welcomed Yemeni unity when it was set up by consent of the two independent states, the Yemeni Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in 1990. Consequently its continuation can only take place with the consent of the two sides.

Faced with a de facto situation embodied by one of the parties announcing the return to its former status and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, the two sides cannot deal with each other in that framework except through peaceful ways and means.

While the council appreciates the desire of Yemen's sons for unity, it stresses that it cannot at all impose this unity using military means. The council states that the continuation of the fighting must have repercussions, not only on Yemen but on the council's states, making them take suitable stances toward the party that does not abide by the cease-fire agreement.

It will also make them consult with Arab and international parties on necessary measures to be taken in the Security Council toward that deteriorating condition in line with the principles of the United Nation's Charter.

The GCC Council condemned the Iraqi regime for not completely abiding with international legitimacy, for continuing its procrastination, violating cease-fire terms underlined in Resolution 687 by reiterating its expansionist claims on Kuwait, and not recognizing its sovereignty, threatening its independence, and endangering regional security.

The statement expressed its appreciation to member states in the Security Council for their firm stance calling on the necessity for Iraqi respect for the sovereignty, independence, and international borders of the State of Kuwait in a legal, documented way.

The council expressed its utmost concern for the unity of Iraq, its sovereignty, and the safety of its lands, and its sympathy for the brotherly Iraqi people in their plight—for which the Iraqi regime was fully responsible.

The Ministerial Council also reviewed the latest development regarding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran; and reiterated its firm stance that supports and backs the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] sovereignty on its three islands: Upper Tunb, Lower Tunb, and Abu Musa. The council stressed its full support for all the peaceful measures and ways undertaken by the UAE to recover its sovereignty over its three islands.

In its final press release, the council denounced the continuing campaigns that are being waged by Iranian mass media against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding pilgrimage arrangements—a matter that contravenes relations of good neighborliness. It does not serve the boosting of relations and the establishment of an atmosphere of trust and tranquility in the region.

The council expresses its utmost gratitude and praise for the huge and sincere efforts that are deployed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at its forefront King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, to enable the pilgrims to carry out their pilgrimage rituals in security and ease.

The council also discussed the developments of the peace process in the Middle East. In this context, it expressed its aspirations that bilateral negotiations would achieve a fundamental progress on all levels; especially Syrian and Lebanese levels. In this connection, the council welcomes the signing of the Cairo Agreement on 4 May 1994, because it represents a positive step on the path of finding a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The council also followed with concern the continuing Israeli violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon—a matter that contravenes international charters and the spirit of the peace process. The Ministerial Council strongly condemned Israel's attacks against Lebanese villages; the killing of civilians, the destruction of properties and its hampering of the ongoing peace efforts.

The council renewed its call to the UN Security Council to enable the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to exercise the legitimate right of self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter; including the lifting of the arms embargo that has been imposed; the tightening of sanctions; the increase in pressure on Serbia and Montenegro; and to prevent reward for the aggressor. [end recording]

Kuwait

5 Iraqis, 1 National Get Death Sentence in Bush Case

Members of 'Terrorist' Network Named

LD0406110594 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The court sentenced six members of the terrorist network to death; they are:

Ra'd 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbud al-Asadi, Iraqi national;

Wali 'Abd al-Hadi 'Abd al-Hasan al-Ghazali, Iraqi national;

Salim Nasir Sabih [Rumi] al-Shammari, Iraqi national;

Bandar 'Ajil Jabir al-Shammari, Iraqi national;

'Adil Isma'il 'Isa [al-'Utaybi], Iraqi national;

Badr Jiyad Thamir Mutlaq al-Shammari, Kuwaiti national.

The court also passed various fixed prison sentences on each of the following:

Ahmad Jabbar Habib [Muhammad] al-Kan'ani, Iraqi national, 12 years;

Salim Jiyad Thamir Mutlaq al-Shammari, Iraqi national, five years;

'Ali Khudayr Badday 'Abd, nicknamed al-Majidi, Iraqi national, four-and-a-half years.

The court also sentenced the following to six-months imprisonment:

Hadi 'Awdah Harjan [al-Khalil] al-Shammari, Iraqi national;

Jabbar Nasir Zayir 'Awwad, Iraqi national;

Dhaydan 'Atiyyah Khalid Muhammad al-Khalidi, Iraqi national;

Jabbar Habib Muhammad al-Kan'ani, Iraqi national.

The court also acquitted the defendant Nasir 'Abd al-Rida Husayn al-Mil, Kuwaiti national.

More on Defendants' Sentencing

LD0406141194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1054 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The State Security court also sentenced the sixth defendant, Hadi 'Awdah [Hajran al-Khalil] al-Shammari; the second, Jabbar Nasir [Zayir] 'Inad [as received]; the ninth, Dhaydan 'Atiyyah Khalid [Muhammad al-Khalidi]; and the tenth, Jabbar Habib [Muhammad] al-Kan'ani, all of whom are Iraqi nationals, to six months imprisonment on the charge of entering the country illegally, and acquitted them of all the other charges levelled against them.

The court also sentenced the seventh defendant, Ali Khudayr Badday 'Abd, alias al-Majidi, an Iraqi national, to four years imprisonment with hard labor on a charge of possessing an unlicensed firearm, in addition to imprisoning him for six months on a charge of entering the country illegally, but acquitted him of the other charges levelled against him.

It also passed a ten-year prison sentence with hard labor on the twelfth defendant, Ahmad Jabbar Habib al-Kan'ani, an Iraqi national, for the crimes of possessing explosives and unlicensed firearms, and imprisoning him for two years with hard labor on the charge of participating in smuggling wines [word indistinct].

It also sentenced the fourteenth defendant, Salim Jiyad [Thamir] Mutlaq al-Shammari, a Kuwaiti national, to five years imprisonment with hard labor for the charges levelled against him.

The court acquitted the thirteenth defendant, Nasir 'Abd al-Rida Husayn al-Mil, a Kuwaiti national. The first ten defendants and the twelfth defendant, all of whom are of Iraqi nationality, are to be expelled from the country after serving the sentences passed on them.

Counsellor al-Fahd, president of the court, said these sentences were not final, but would be presented a month after they are passed to the cassation court which is responsible for following up on the findings of the case and passing the final verdict.

No 'Political Intervention' Said in Decision

LD0406120494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1054 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 Jun—Councillor Salah al-Fahd, president of the State Security Court, stressed that sentences, which the court had passed, were not influenced by any political interventions from any quarter, pointing out that the defendants were recruited by Iraqi intelligence service to assassinate former President Bush and to carry out acts infringing on security [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

The court also passed a death sentence on a Kuwaiti citizen, Badr Jiyad Thamir Mutlaq al-Shammari and fined the first four defendants a sum of 3,000 Kuwait dinars and a collective custom penalty of 1,500 Kuwait dinars for the first five and the 11th defendants.

The State Security Court witnessed a fist fight in the dock between the first defendant Ra'd al-Asadi and the 11th defendant, Badr Jiyad al-Shammari following the issuing of sentences as the defendant al-Shammari claimed that Al-Asadi had implicated him in the case.

Saudi Arabia

King Speaks on Political, Economic Situation

LD0406133294 Riyadh SPA in English 1223 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, June 4, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has expressed appreciation for the heartfelt feelings spelt out by the citizens and leaders of the fraternal and friendly countries following the successful operation he underwent last Monday [30 May] in Jeddah.

Thanks to the almighty God, I have recovered quickly and the operation did not take a long time, said the king.

Addressing a group of citizens here yesterday the monarch reiterated his determination to go ahead in the service of the citizens.

King Fahd reiterated the determination of the kingdom to adhere to the Islamic teachings and said the establishment of the Consultative Council came in line with the teachings of Islam.

He noted that the Consultative Council comprises a group of qualified and efficient people.

Replying [to] questions raised by the reporter of Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC), King Fahd highlighted the attention given by the state to the pilgrims.

He said he will make an inspecting tour of Muna, 'Arafat and al- Muzdalifah, accompanied by the concerned authorities, to explore suitable means for extending better services to the pilgrims and enabling them perform their rituals in comfort and ease and in particular at jamarat (stoning zone).

I am determined to go ahead in developing Mecca and Medina, but this does not mean that the other Saudi cities will be neglected, he said and added 'with the grace of the God we will provide all the regions with the required facilities and services including electric and telephone services and desalinated water. [no closing punctuation as received]

King Fahd said the state would benefit from the ideas presented by the members of the Consultative Council on means of serving the country.

I, and the Council of Ministers are keen on listening to the views and ideas of the Consultative Council, he said.

King Fahd pointed out that the new systems, recently announced, have opended new horizons for the service of the country.

King Fahd noted that the new regulations and systems have fixed the period of the portfolios and added 'but changing of ministers or officials does not necessarily mean that they have committed a mistake'.

Shedding light on the economic situation in the kingdom, King Fahd described the kingdom's economy as strong.

He noted that the kingdom had spent billions of riyals and dollars because of the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq and in addition to that, King Fahd, said the country had extended large amounts of money to a number of Arab, African and Asian countries in forms of grants and loans.

King Fahd criticized those who write about the kingdom's economy in a biased way.

Thanks to the God who has bestowed on us so many bounties, the kingdom has so many resources inclduing oil 'and a number of new oil wells were recently discovered south of Riyadh'.

He noted that these new wells are expected to be on stream soon and their production would be exported via the country's sea ports either in the west or east of the kingdom.

King Fahd described the oil of the new wells as oil of high quality.

Moreover, King Fahd said gold was discovered in the kingdom and arrangements were underway to benefit from these new discoveries.

Highlighting the existing confidence between the state and the citizens, King Fahd said the state does not interfere in the affairs of the citizens an well as in the manner the citizens manage their properties.

Refuting the fabricated reports on the economic situation in the kingdom, King Fahd said it would not be a shameful thing if the state resorted to obtain loans from inside or outside the country.

He noted that reduction of expenditure by about 20 percent, as being announced by the minsiter of finance and national economy, would not have an adverse impact on the existing major projects.

The Saudi currency is covered by gold and hard currencies, he said.

The monarch said the state had extended soft and free-interest loans, worth of billion riyals, to the citizens including real estate and agricultural loans.

On handling over of some of the public enterprises to the private sector, King Fahd said shares would be floated for subscription by the citizens in enterprises like the national airlines, posts, telegraphs and telephones.

There is also possiblity of the private's sector's contribution to oil refinery, he said and added the state will hand over to the citizens any enterprise that can be run by them.

This policy will be carried out in the appropriate time after making the required arrangements, he said.

On the developments of the situation in Yemen, King Fahd said the kingdom's relations with North and South Yemen are deeprooted and added 'we believe that all Yemenis are keen on the stability of their country'.

He commended the resolution recently issued by the Security Council and hoped that it would pave the way for ending the fighting in the country.

Yemen is a dear country and we do respect it, he said and added the kingdom is keen on maintaining good relations with all Arab countries.

It is hoped that the Security Council's resolution, which is accepted by the concerned parties, will be implemented because failure of its implemtation will mean continuation of bloodshedding, he elaborated.

King Fahd reiterated that the kingdom does not interfere in any Arab problem unless it is requested to do so.

Yemen

North Reportedly Attacks Aden Oil Refinery

Fuel Storage Tank Said on Fire

NC0506104094 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 5 Jun 94

[By Mohammad Attar]

[Excerpts] Aden, Yemen, June 5 (AFP)—Northern warplanes on Sunday [5 June] blew up an oil storage tank at the refinery in the southern stronghold of Aden as Yemen's civil war entered its second month, a southern military spokesman said.

The spokesman said a fire "broke out in a fuel storage tank at the refinery," about 10 kilometers (six miles) from here and the main source of fuel for southern troops loyal to 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

It refines some 140,000 barrels of crude per day.

Anti-aircraft fire shot down one of the warplanes but the others escaped, the spokesman said.

Witnesses meanwhile said the north fired two surface-to-surface missiles at Aden overnight, but the southern city's air defenses shot one out of the sky over an uninhabited area and the other plunged harmlessly into the sea.

And a northern military spokesman in Sanaa said southern forces fired two Scud missiles at residential areas of the northern city of Ta'izz but both were "intercepted" without causing casualties.

Both sides accused the other of cowardice in the attacks.

A southern spokesman said the raid on the refinery was a "flagrant challenge to the will of the international community," referring to a UN resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the month-old war.

But the north also called the attack on Ta'izz, about 156 kilometers (90 miles) northwest of the southern stronghold of Aden, "a violation" of the resolution.

Neither side in the war which has pitted rival north and south troops since May 5 has respected the ceasefire call adopted Wednesday by the UN Security Council.

Heavy artillery fire continued throughout Saturday evening north of Aden as southern forces fought to hold back an offensive by northern troops of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The northern forces were reported Friday to be only 15 kilometers (nine miles) from Aden where al-Bid, the country's former vice- president, proclaimed an independent state on May 21 after a failed four-year union.

Southern soldiers have launched a counter-offensive to retake the town of Lahij about 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Aden, according to soldiers near the front.

A southern spokesman said "several members of the Jihad" Moslem fundamentalist organisation which backs Salih had been captured at Kharaz.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, appointed vice president of the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic, told AFP that his forces might call for Saudi military support in battling northern troops.

He said southern leaders had "not yet decided", but added that "everything is possible and legitimate to protect our people." Southern forces are outnumbered by those of the north. [passage omitted]

Gulf Arab states met Sunday in Abha, southwest Saudi Arabia, to debate the Yemeni conflict after Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal warned that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) could intervene if the fighting continued.

Five foreign ministers from the six-member council attended the talks after Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jabir Al Thani returned home suffering from an illness, sources said.

The south's appointed prime minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas met in Jeddah Saturday with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi Press Agency said without giving details.

Al-'Attas is expected Sunday in Cairo for more talks on the conflict.

Damage to Refinery Described

NC0506110694 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Little Aden, Yemen, June 5 (AFP)—Northern warplanes firing a missile blew up two vast oil storage tanks during a raid on Aden's refinery on Sunday [5 June], officials said.

A 25,000 tonnes container of crude oil burst into flames after northern warplanes launched an air-to-ground missile, setting fire to the neighbouring tank, refinery director Fadl Haydar told AFP.

Firemen aided by volunteers used foam to try to contain towering flames in a desperate bid to stop the blaze spreading to the four neighbouring tanks.

Haydar warned the whole plant "could be set alight if we don't extinguish the fire quickly."

Hundreds of people living nearby fled their homes in panic as waves of intense heat and smoke radiated from the burning tanks.

"It's hell, it's hell," shouted one lorry driver, heading east away from the scene with his family towards the southern stronghold of Aden.

A southern military spokesman said fire "broke out in a fuel storage tank at the refinery," which is about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the center of the southern stronghold of Aden after the northern air raid.

Anti-aircraft fire shot down one of the warplanes but the others escaped, he said without specifying how many took part in the attack.

The facility, which refines some 140,000 barrels a day, is the largest in Yemen and the only one supplying southern troops who have been locked in a grim battle with northern rivals since May 5.

Haydar said the refinery's other installations had not been touched and there had not been any casualties.

A southern military spokesman denounced it as a "cowardly" raid and a "flagrant challenge" to the UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the month-old war.

It is the third attack in a week on the refinery. The two others missed their target and wounded about 10 people in neighbouring districts.

Meanwhile in Aden queues quickly formed at petrol stations as residents learnt of the attack in a statement broadcast by southern leaders.

Neither side in the war which has pitted troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and southerners who back 'Ali Salim al-Bid has respected the UN's ceasefire call adopted Wednesday.

North's Planes Reportedly Downed

EA0506152394 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1255 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen" to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden]

[Text] Here is little Saddam, or the backward Saddam, as described by the militant brother and great patriot, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council. Here is little Saddam or the backward Saddam reappearing to try his luck in Yemen, and there are similarities between today and yesterday, when Arab and international states unanimously condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and stood as one to force the Iraqi Forces to withdraw from Kuwaiti territory. After the failure of Saddam Husayn's scheme in Kuwait, he proceeded to burn the oil refineries and oilfields of fraternal Kuwait, dear to the heart of every Arab. Today our people stood steadfast in the Democratic Republic of Yemen with their brave Armed Forces, in the face of the aggressive invasion of the ruling military regime in Sanaa, and caused the failure of its attempts to seize southern Yemen by force. There were unanimous Arab and international demands for a ceasefire and the aggressor's withdrawal.

At this very moment, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has resorted to an attempt to destroy the Aden refineries, a vital and important facility for the entire Yemeni people, both in the south and the north. How ironic that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's four aircraft, which carried out the aerial attack on the Aden refineries, should destroy the fuel tank which supplies fuel to the northern governorates. Our great air defenses were vigilant regarding this aggression, and shot down three aircraft, while the fourth one fled. We shall supply local, Arab, and international public opinion with more details later. God is great, God is great.

Sanaa Source 'Categorically' Denies Raid

JN0506133794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] A military source has categorically denied that the aircraft belonging to the forces of unity and legitimacy bombed the Aden refinery or targeted any of its installations today, Sunday. The source said this refinery and other economic installations are the property of the Yemeni people and will never be a target of the forces of unity and legitimacy. Instead, they will be protected and defended by these forces.

The source said the hysteria of the elements of the rebellious secessionist gang has reached such an extent that this criminal gang does not hesitate to commit the most heinous crimes against the people, the homeland, and their achievements.

The source said these criminal elements are currently destroying vital economic installations in the areas they control, including the shelling of the Aden refinery with a missile today in order to destroy it, arouse public opinion, and evoke an increased sense of grudge and hatred among the sons of the one Yemeni homeland.

The source said this secessionist gang did not hesitate to strike cities and innocent people with missiles in the densely-populated residential areas in Sanaa, Zinjibar, 'Ataq, and al-Hudaydah. Being in the last throes of death, this gang carried out the same criminal conduct by destroying and damaging economic installations and targets in many of the areas it used to control, as an expression of the sense of grudge and despair overwhelming it.

The source warned this criminal gang against committing more criminal actions against the people and the homeland. He said this gang will never escape punishment. He denounced the continued acts of aggression this gang is carrying out against the citizens and our valiant Armed Forces, thus violating UN Security Council Resolution 924 and defying both the national consensus and the international will.

Oil Production Said Unaffected by Raid

EA0506190094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The director general of the Yemeni oil company, Mr. 'Umar Ahmad Salih, affirmed that, in spite of the fuel depot that has been set on fire as a result of the aggressive air raid carried out by the al-Ahmar gang warplanes against Aden refinery, the vital economic installation in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, to prevent it from carrying out its services roles to the citizens, Yemeni oil company is to continue its activities to provide all the citizens with petroleum and its products in all stations in Aden Governorate, as usual. He pointed out that workers will double their productive and service activities, in order to provide better services for the citizens round the clock. At the end of his statement, the director general of the Yemeni oil company appealed to the citizens not to be worried about what has happened today.

General Mansur: Noose Tightening Around Aden

JN0506184594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Staff Brigadier General Brother 'Abd-Rabbuh Hadi Mansur, the defense minister, has emphasized that our Armed Forces—the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy—have completed their tasks successfully, and have, for some time, been tightening the noose around the rebellious secessionist gang entrenched inside Aden.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', he said our Armed Forces have executed their combat operations in all the axes with accuracy and success, confident in God and the cause for which they are striving, namely, the Yemeni homeland's unity.

Out of fear for the lives of the the valiant city's citizens and their property, and out of fear for the lives and property of Aden's population, our Armed Forces—the forces of unity and legitimacy—have for the past two days not returned the aggressive artillery fire directed by the rebellious secessionist elements from within the beloved city, the minister said.

The military command will give thought to the safety of the city and its population and not return the artillery fire emanating from the valiant city of Aden. The brother minister reassured our people in the beloved city of Aden that the forces of unity and legitimacy will [words indistinct] and [words indistinct] their property from the fiddling of the rebellious secessionist gang that has made the citizens of beloved Aden human shields behind which they are taking cover. This is in addition to acts of subversion and destruction of numerous economic facilities in Aden and other Yemeni cities that had been under their control before our Armed Forces flushed them out.

South Accused of Damaging Service Facilities

JN0506071894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] A correspondent of the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has reported that our Armed Forces, which are defending unity and constitutional legitimacy, are eager, in the course of their confrontation and pursuit of the remnants of secessionists and separatists, to deal with the residents of the areas in which military operations are carried out in a friendly, fraternal, and humane manner.

The agency's correspondent, who is currently stationed in the axis of Abyan-al-'Alam-Aden, added that he noticed that our Armed Forces operating in the battlefields in this axis are eager not to harm our people in these areas, which are being purged of separatist forces. The correspondent went on to say: Our forces are making a deliberate effort to avoid damage to vital and service facilities that serve people in these areas. He pointed to the damage caused to economic installations, as well as the destruction of all vital facilities carried out by the secessionist gang so that citizens may not benefit from them. For example, in the first days of the secessionist gang's unleashing of the crisis, it cut off the power supply feeding Abyan from Aden in retaliation against its heroic sons for the nationalist unity-orientated positions they have taken, for their confrontation of this gang's secessionist plan, and also for the support they have lent to the forces of unity and legitimacy, which are valiantly confronting the destructive secessionist plan announced by the war criminal, agent, and traitor 'Ali al-Bid. Furthermore, several other economic facilities and service installations became targets of aggressive bombardment by the secessionist and separatist forces when they were compelled to retreat and withdraw from their positions. This reflects the malicious spirit and destructive instincts of this criminal secessionist gang.

Security Officers, Troops Join 'Forces of Unity'

JN0306171394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Colonel Ahmad Jabir 'Uthman, a senior officer in the Political Security Apparatus [PSA], joined by a large group of officers, NCO's, and soldiers from the PSA, who were misled for a while by the rebellious secessionist gang led by traitor agent 'Ali al-Bid, have declared that they are joining the forces of unity protecting constitutional legitimacy. They voiced their rejection and denunciation of the declaration of secession and said they were ready to defend unity and confront all schemes aimed at disrupting the homeland.

Brother Col. Ahmad Jabir gave serious and important information about details of the criminal secessionist schemes of the elements of apostasy and secession. He said he was tasked by the secessionist gang with administering and overseeing the destructive military and security operations in Lahij, Abyan, and Shabwah governorates as part of the implementation of the secessionist scheme. He explained that as soon as he discovered the reality of the criminal scheme against the sovereignty of the Republic of Yemen and its unity harbored by those who are laying in wait for Yemen, he retreated from his positions toward the secessionist gang and refused to go ahead with their treacherous scheme. He also delivered serious and important documents to the authorities on that secessionist scheme against the Yemeni homeland and its unity.

Col. Ahmad Jabir 'Uthman said he had seen large amounts of military equipment arriving from abroad for the rebellious secessionist gang.

The joining brothers voiced their regret and repentance regarding the period they spent with the elements of apostasy and secession without knowing the extent of the aims and dimensions of the conspiracy concocted against Yemen and its unity. They announced their loyalty to constitutional legitimacy and declared they will be at the forefront of the ranks defending unity and legitimacy.

North Releases Casualty Figures for Conflict

NC0506121694 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa, June 5 (AFP)—Six-hundred-and-thirteen soldiers loyal to northern President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have been killed and 2,030 wounded in Yemen's month-old civil war, officials said in the first official toll published here Sunday [5 June].

Another 1,200 northern troops have been reported missing while 901 are being held prisoner by southern forces backing Salih's rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a military spokesman told the northern-controlled SABA' news agency.

He said the number of prisoners being held in "concentration camps in Aden" had been supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

It was the first official, if partial, toll to be given since fighting broke out on May 5.

Late Saturday a southern leader said in Cairo that 80,000 people had been killed, wounded or made homeless in the fighting, without giving a breakdown.

Aden Reports 60 Northerners Killed in Radfan

EA0506191094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The soldiers in the war of liberation against the British, and their brave young people in Radfan Province have sent the following cable to the chairman and members of the Presidential Council and the command of the Armed Forces in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY]: We send you our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the declaration of the DRY, on behalf of our colleagues Labbuzah, Thabit Husayn al-Uqbi, and other strugglers in the war of liberation, and send you a suitable gift contained in what follows:

A group of fighters in the war of liberation and their brave youths attacked the invading enemy forces as they arrived at one of the remote villages in Radfan Province. A fierce battle ensued, lasting from 1100 on 3 June until the dawn of the following day. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy: Three military vehicles destroyed, 60 men killed, and a number of others wounded. One of our colleagues was martyred, while six others were lightly wounded. In response, the enemy proceeded to shell villages indiscriminately, martyring a citizen and wounding a number of others. We promise our political leadership in the DRY that we shall deal with these new occupiers just as we dealt with the colonialists, and shall not give up an inch of the territory of the DRY. This is a promise from strong and loyal strugglers: We shall rout the attacking forces, and victory will be our ally, God willing.

Aden Reports North Losses in Attack at al-Shu'ayb

EA0506204094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The popular resistance in the al-Shu'ayb district succeeded in resisting an aggressive assault mounted by the enemy forces last night and today, and inflicted heavy losses on them. This happened when the enemy forces sent a company [sariyyah] from the Hamzah Brigade forward, with support from all forms of heavy weapons, including Katyushas. They attempted to occupy a number of villages in al-Shu'ayb. They carried out random shelling against the villages and their peaceful inhabitants, which led to the wounding of four citizens.

Popular resistance forces engaged the attackers, led by the fighters of the liberation war, from last night until this afternoon. The enemy suffered heavy losses, as 24 men were killed or wounded. Our forces also destroyed three military vehicles, along with their crews. An enemy reconnaissance officer was captured. The rest of the enemy forces were compelled to withdraw and flee in the direction of Qa'tabah.

Aden 'Ministry' Issues Statements on Operations

Al-Maghawir Brigade Said Captured

EA0306164594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Ministry of Defense of the Democratic Republic of Yemen" to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden]

[Text] With assistance from God almighty and with the determined will of our heroic fighters, our courageous Armed Forces and the masses in Shabwah Governorate succeeded yesterday after a ferocious battle in capturing the entire al-Maghawir [shock troop] Brigade after destroying much of its equipment and vehicles. This is the brigade pushed by the military ruling regime in Sanaa into committing aggression against the brave Shabwah Governorate. Our forces there continue, with the effective and determined support of the masses, to mop up pockets of the aggressor forces.

In Tawr al-Baha Province, the popular resistance [word indistinct] in the battles they are waging against the forces of the al-Ahmar gang to kill and take 20 officers and men prisoner yesterday evening. The popular resistance also continues ferocious battles to force the aggressors to retreat and flee.

Other Southern Successes Reported

EA0306203594 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Ministry of Defense of the Democratic Republic of Yemen" has told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden]

[Text] With almighty God's assistance, and with the will and determination of our heroic fighters, the brave Armed Forces and loyal defenders of the sovereignty and independence of the Democratic Republic of Yemen succeeded, after violent battles with the infiltrating remnants of the enemy wandering toward (al-Wahab), in destroying four hostile tanks and killing and wounding hundreds of his men. Scores of officers, NCO's and soldiers have been taken prisoner. Our heroic fighters continue to register mighty feats continue to chase the routed remnants of the enemy into the deserts. This is a rare heroic operation; they have succeeded in turning the tide of the battle. Our forces succeeded in taking the initiative and are proceeding towards a great victory, God willing.

Successes in Tawr al-Bahah Reported

EA0406210994 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source at the Defense Ministry in the Democratic Republic of Yemen"]

[Text] Within the framework of challenging the international community and all the good Arab international efforts, the ruling miltiary regime in Sanaa continues its barbarous and aggressive acts against our people in the Democratic Republic of Yemen. On this very day, the invading and aggressive forces continued their desperate attacks on all fronts. Our brave Armed Forces intercepted them, and inflicted on them further losses in lives, vehicles, and other military equipment.

In the Tawr al-Bahah zone, our forces succeeded in mopping up the infiltrating hostile forces, which were engaged in acts of looting, robbery, and rape. Our forces are in the process of imposing their control over the situation, after combing a number of villages and towns for the routed remnants of the hostile forces. On this front the enemy's losses were four tanks, two Katyusha launchers, and hundreds of dead and wounded. A large number of the enemy's men surrendered, including numerous members of the infamous and disreputable jihad elements.

Our forces continue, in the provinces of Radfan and al-Dali'—after thousands of people joined them from the province of Yafi and other provinces—to cleanse the villages of the filth of the routed remnants of the hostile forces.

In the Abyan zone our forces destroyed three Katyusha launch vehicles and seized two hostile tanks. The combat actions of our forces were characterized by determination, death-defying action, a firm defense, and high combat morale. The enemy's acts were characterized by barbarousness, randomness, and desperation, especially after they realized that the ruling military regime in Sanaa insists on continuing to challenge the international community, and on shedding the blood of thousands of the sons of the central areas, who have no control over their fates and are pushed toward the holocaust of war and death.

God is great, God is great.

Northern Missile Attacks Reported

EA0506202794 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1823 GMT 5 Jun 94

Statement issued by a "responsible source at the Defense Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Yemen" to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, Aden]

[Text] Within the framework of the flagrant, adventurist challenge to the UN Security Council resolution issued on 2 June, which stipulated an immediate cease-fire, the ruling military regime in Sanaa, under the leadership of the bloodshedder 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, today continued its barbarous, hostile acts against residential quarters, peaceful villages, and vital economic installations. Some residential quarters in the capital, Aden, were subjected to strikes this evening by surface-to-surface missiles. Shrapnel from these missiles, which were intercepted by our air defenses, fell on some residential quarters and hit innocent citizens.

Today, in another arena, crushing battles took place between our forces and hostile forces on all fronts. Our forces managed to halt the advance of the enemy forces, after inflicting heavy human and material losses on them, which we shall report on in subsequent communiques. Our forces, led by the fighters of the liberation war, continue to cleanse villages and towns of the filth of the forces of the al-Ahmar gang which tried to spread corruption in those areas, looting the citizens and violating their honor. The Armed Forces, supported by the masses of the people, are resisting—with rare courage and legendary bravery—the barbarous and brutal forces, for the 45th consecutive day. They have unlimited confidence that the ruling military regime in Sanaa will take its last breath in the next few hours, and will have to drink from the cup of defeat and disgrace.

God is great, God is great, victory is near.

Aden Announces Capture of 6 Pro-Sanaa Iraqis

NC0406183294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi from Aden]

[Text] Sanaa has denied that foreign parties or Iraqi forces are fighting on the side of Sanaa's forces against the southern forces. Aden has officially announced the capture of a number of Iraqis who fought with the northern forces in battles that raged between the southern and northern forces.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, vice president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, has this to say:

[Begin al-Jifri recording] Brothers from Sudan and Iraq are helping the brothers-enemies who are attacking us. There are certainly Iraqi pilots. They fly the planes at very high altitude so that their planes will not be brought down and be captured. The planes used are Iraqi and north Yemeni ones. There are so far five Iraqi prisoners and they are in Hadramaut and I have just been told that there is one more. They are six now. [end recording]

North 'Source' Denies Transport of Iraqi Aircraft

JN0506203194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] A responsible source in Sanaa has refuted the allegations made by the renegade 'Ali Salim al-Bid to the United Arab Emirates paper AL-KHALIJ in which he said that (?eight) Iraqi military aircraft were transported to Sanaa via Tashkent through Iranian middlemen and that Jordanian planes have transported weapons to Sanaa.

The same source said these statements are unfounded allegations.

'Hostile' Media Reports on Arrest of Iraqis Denied

JN0606060794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The declining media trumpets of the gang of rebellion and secession, and some suspect foreign media hostile to the Yemeni unity, have continued to propagate exposed lies and fabrications to the effect that Iraqis are fighting alongside the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy.

On 4 June, the Middle East Broadcasting Corporation, MBC, cited its correspondent in Aden on the arrest of some Iraqis claiming they were fighters recruited within the ranks of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, when in fact they are Iraqi teachers who had been teaching in the Hadhramaut Governorate. The forces of the gang of rebellion and secession arrested them and showed them on television claiming they were Iraqi fighters, thus committing a new moral scandal that is added to the series of moral scandals committed frequently by the gang of rebellion and secession. This gang is experiencing its death-throes and is trying, in vain, through these fabrications and cheap blackmail, to win foreign sympathy and intervention to save it from inevitable doom.

The First Channel Television yesterday evening screened documentary evidence that refutes the successive fabrications of the gang of rebellion, secession, and treason and those of suspect and hostile media organs.

Presidential Council To Declare Cease-Fire

JN0406173994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1722 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] We have just received the following: A short while ago, AFP cited an official in Sanaa as saying that a cease-fire will be announced in the next few hours. The northern Yemeni official, who asked to remain anonymous, said: The cease-fire announcement, which will be issued by the Presidential Council in Yemen, will come in harmony with the Sanaa government's acceptance of the Security Council resolution, calling for a cease-fire. The northern Yemeni official added: Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is currently holding contacts with the Defense Ministry and the command of the Army units to take the necessary measures to achieve a cease-fire in Yemen.

Saudi Statements Said To 'Delay' Cease-Fire

JN0506124794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Sanaa has announced that it will delay its decision to accept a cease-fire, as demanded by the United Nations, as a result of Saudi statements that the Arabian Gulf states may move if battles in Yemen continue.

This was announced by a northern official, who said verbatim that Sanaa was about to officially inform the UN secretary general of its agreement on a cease-fire, but that Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's statements delayed that announcement.

Salih Holding Consultations on UN Resolution

JN0406051994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, is holding extensive consultations with the Defense Ministry command to make the necessary arrangements to deal with UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 on the situation in our country.

Salih Briefs King Husayn on 'Blatant Interference'

JN0606054094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] A telephone contact took place yesterday evening between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. During this telephone conversation, President Salih briefed King Husayn on the latest developments in our country in light of the signs of blatant interference in Yemen's affairs.

The brother leader president renewed his commendation of the lofty, principled pan-Arab stand of His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal and the brothers in Jordan and their support for our Yemeni people, Yemeni unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. The president stressed that despite the challenges to unity imposed by the rebellious and secessionist gang, which sold itself to the devil, our people will defend unity being the great strategic objective. Our people struggled and offered dear sacrifices to achieve this historic national objective and pan-Arab gain.

King Husayn Bin-Talal reiterated, during the telephone contact, sisterly Jordan's support for unity, democracy, and legitimacy in our country.

Foreign Minister Views al-Bid's Secessionist Plans

JN0406103394 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 30 May-5 June 94 p 12

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Mu'ayyad, in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Mu'ayyad] Do you expect that 'Ali Salim al-Bid to succeed in his plan for the state he has declared?

[Basindwah] Of course not, for several reasons. The most important of these reasons are: First, the nations of the world, both fraternal and friendly states, consider what is going on an internal Yemeni affair. These states find themselves obliged to support Yemen's unity, especially since unity embodies the Yemeni people's will and choice. The best proof of this is the U.S. Administration's stand. Second, al-Bid cannot take valiant Aden as the capital of his secessionist state. How can he impose this state which he has dreamed up when he does not have any control over the capital Aden? Third, the escape of al-Bid and his closest entourage to Hadhramaut does not at all mean that he can impose his powers on the Hadhramaut Governorate because its citizens have suffered a great deal from them. Undoubtedly, the forces of legitimacy will pursue them to the farthest point in the homeland. Fourth, most of the forces of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] have either joined the forces of legitimacy, or have been completely destroyed. Regardless of the attempts of al-Bid and his group to establish new forces, they will never be able to stand fast in front of the forces of legitimacy, which are supported by the people. Fifth, al-Bid has now destroyed his credibility on the popular level both inside and outside the country. The battle now is not between al-Bid and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Neither is it between the YSP and the General People's Congress, but between him [al-Bid] and his group on the one hand, and the people on the other, including large sectors of the YSP itself. So, how can he win the battle? [passage omitted]

[Al-Mu'ayyad] What do you expect 'Ali Salim al-Bid to do with his plan for the state he has declared after he has lost most of his military forces, along with the battles in the three governorates surrounding Aden?

[Basindwah] I believe that from the very beginning, his plan was aimed at establishing a state in Hadhramaut and al-Mahrah. I sensed this long ago. In fact, I used to accuse him of this. One day, he attacked me for accusing him of this. Now, time has confirmed my intuition and expectations. However, this dream will never come true. This is because the citizens in Hadhramaut and al-Mahrah themselves do not support him, but rather, they are in favor of unity.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] On what basis did you judge al-Bid as not being a unionist from the very beginning?

[Basindwah] I had the feeling that al-Bid joined the unity against his will, and that he has always thought of separation, even after he agreed on unity. He wanted to wait, however, until after he found a way out of the impasse the former South Yemen found itself in as a result of the lack of world support after the changes Gorbachev introduced in the former USSR's policy, and the collapse of the communist regimes. Al-Bid was also trying to contain the possibilities of confrontation with his opponents inside the country and in the region's states to which the leadership of the ruling party in Aden had been hostile with for two decades.

The actions of al-Bid and his group since the establishment of unity have showed that they are neither concerned about unity nor do they have faith in it. It is true that they used to brag about unity, but their actions were secessionist. This applies to the democracy whose rules and results they continued to reject. Had al-Bid been faithful to unity, he would have settled the crisis when he obtained concessions beyond his expectations. However, although he was a vice president, he continued to act as if he was another president of the state.

Sanaa Official on UN Resolution, Fact-Finding Mission

JN0306181494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Presidential Council member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, who is currently in New York, has rejected the separatist and apostate gang's announcement of a so-called new government in Aden, describing it as illegitimate and unrecognized. He also described it as a violation and circumvention of the UN Security Council.

In a telephone conversation held with him from Doha by the Qatari News Agency editor-in-chief, the Presidential Council member stressed that all the Yemeni people support unity and do not approve of what is being done by the secessionist elements in Aden. He said the separatists obstructed all positive initiatives designed to overcome our country's current crisis. He explained: When we announced a cease-fire on the eve of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, they issued the declaration of secession. Now, when a UN Security Council resolution has been issued calling for peace and stability in our country, they declare the formation of a secessionist government.

The Presidential Council member reiterated that our country welcomes the UN Security Council resolution and deals with it on condition that all those concerned cooperate with the implementation of the resolution. He said the resolution proceeds from the principles and the charter of the United Nations, for it calls for respecting the unity and sovereignty of the entire territory of the Republic of Yemen. He explained that our country's approval of the UN Security Council resolution is not considered a change in its policy. He explained: We welcomed the resolution after we found that it does not contravene the Republic of Yemen's unity and sovereignty over its entire territory. Consequently, the resolution has been dealt with. He stressed that as a UN member, our country could not have prevented the UN Security Council from debating any issue. He explained that the UN Security Council will be submitted to the Presidential Council, given that the executive authority in the Republic of Yemen is made up of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers.

The Presidential Council member welcomed the appointment of Lakhdar Ibrahim as a representative of the UN secretary general to lead the fact-finding committee. He described Ibrahimi as an esteemed Arab personality worthy of this mission.

Northern Diplomat Warns of 100-Year War

NC0406151494 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait City, June 4 (AFP)—Yemen's civil war will drag on for 100 years if the international community recognises the breakaway southern state, a northern Yemeni diplomat warned Saturday [4 June].

Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, Yemen's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyasah: "If the Arabs and the world want Yemenis to continue slaughtering each other for 100 years, they only have to recognise the secession" of the self-declared Yemen Democratic Republic.

"We will then be two countries and for decades we will devote ourselves to war, instead of development," he said, adding both sides would use oil revenues to buy arms.

Civil war broke out on May 5, four years after conservative North Yemen was unified with the Marxist South.

Southern leaders declared the independent republic on May 21, but it has yet to be officially recognised by any country.

Jamil also criticised the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire.

"Yemen's affairs, which are strictly local, should not have been brought before the Security Council," he said.

Abyan Tribe Pledges Allegiance to Salih

JN0506075494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The shaykhs, notables, and sons of the Ba Kazm tribe in the Districts of al-Mahfid and Ahwar in the Abyan Governorate have issued a statement denying the reports issued by the secessionist remnants over their media organs regarding alleged and baseless support by their tribe. The statement said that the shaykhs and notables of the Ba Kazm tribe, who played an honorable role in resisting colonial rule and evil powers over the past 25-year rule of the secessionist gang, declare their adherence to unity and constitutional legitimacy. This reflects, the statement added, the principled positions they have announced in early 1991, when they met with brother President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. During that meeting, the statement noted, they pledged to support and defend unity.

The statement added that the treasonous, agent, and secessionist gang within the Yemeni Socialist Party and its allied hirelings, feeling that they are now in their death throes, are fabricating alleged and baseless cables of congratulations to deceive the public opinion through cheap tactics. They have used the name of the Ba Kazm tribe, given its profound influence and role, in an attempt to influence the positions of other tribes, forgetting that unity and Yemen are dearer and more chaste than all filthy money.

The Ba Kazm notables concluded their statement by extending their greetings, appreciation, and absolute allegiance to the symbol struggler Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and expressing support for constitutional legitimacy, the leadership, and the governorate represented by Abyan Governor struggler 'Ali Shaykh 'Umar, and the forces vindicating legitimacy and unity.

God is great. Victory and pride to unity, constitutional legitimacy, and Yemen.

League Message Urges Speaker To Implement Cease-Fire

JN0606061794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Message from Arab League Secretary General 'Abd-al-Majid to the speaker of the House of Representatives]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

His Excellency brother 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, Republic of Yemen.

Greetings;

I received with appreciation and concern the Yemeni House of Representatives' message on 30 May 1994, conveyed to us by Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, permanent representative of the Republic of Yemen to the Arab League.

I would like to stress to your excellency that the developments in the Republic of Yemen have always been the concern of the Arab League because the strength and stability of Yemen, as well as the safety of its people, are a support for the Arab nation and joint Arab action. Proceeding from this, I dispatched a mission to the Republic of Yemen on 4 March 1994. Furthermore, the 101st session of the Arab League Council issued a statement on 26 March 1994, affirming its deep concern over the developments in Yemen and urging the Yemeni political leaders to double their efforts to resolve differences in a way that strengthens unity and spreads stability in Yemen and security in the whole region. Also, the Arab League Council adopted in its extraordinary session Resolution No. 5,409 on 7 May 1994, a copy of which is attached to this letter. In this resolution, the Arab League Council called for an immediate cease-fire and ending the deterioration in Yemen to safeguard its unity.

Within this framework, their majesties and excellencies the Arab kings and presidents, as well as Arab national organizations and personalities, continued their efforts to stop Arab bloodshed in sisterly Yemen and to preserve its resources and achievements. I also sent a high-level delegation to Sanaa where it met with His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and a number of ranking Yemeni figures.

I am still exerting efforts and holding contacts in accordance with the abovementioned Arab League Council resolution, using all the potentials of the Arab League Secretariat to achieve this noble objective.

I appeal to you—in light of what is dictated on you by your responsibility—to exert efforts and do what is appropriate and effective to implement the resolution of Arab legitimacy.

I ask God to grant us all success for the wellbeing and safety of the sisterly Yemeni Arab people. God knows our intention, and He leads us to the right path.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Secretary General Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid

Paper Urges Heeding UN Call for 'Reason'

PM0306150094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Appeal of Reason Should Be Heeded"]

[Text] The resolution adopted by the UN Security Council [UNSC] does not concern Yemen's unity or partition. It is aimed at silencing the guns and stopping the massacres.

As was expected, the UNSC resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire in the Yemeni war has provoked initial hostile reactions from the two parties to the conflict.

But one point is now certain, namely that neither of the two parties to the conflict will be able to ignore a resolution embodying the international community's will. The world as a whole is demanding an immediate end to the fratricide in Yemen. And the international community is willing and has the ability to guarantee the two parties' respect for its will.

Obviously there are people outside Yemen who would like to prove their courage at the expense of Yemeni blood. One of them says that "Yemeni unity must be safeguarded, even if it costs 100,000 Yemeni lives." Another is urging Yemeni leaders to defy the will of the world "and to continue the fighting to the last drop of their blood."

But the reality is that most Yemenis—in the north or the south—refuse to allow the Yemeni land to be turned into a graveyard to satisfy demagogic ideas abroad. And most likely, they do not want a unity based on mass murder, especially as they can see that the one-month war has not settled any of the political problems that ignited the war in the first place.

There is positive evidence that many leading elements in the north and the south have begun to understand the general mood. These elements now believe that this war lacks the popular support for its continuation until it is settled in favor of this or that party.

The resolution adopted by the UNSC is precise and fair in its wording and contains a number of reasonable demands.

It is not adopting a position on the essence of the dispute between the north and the south. By citing the Republic of Yemen twice, the resolution has refuted the argument of those quarters who accused the UNSC of trying to impose the partition option on Yemen. It is clear that the resolution does not concern Yemen's unity or its partition. It is aimed at silencing the guns and providing a breather for reflection in order to resume the political dialogue, instead of war, until a just and lasting settlement to the dispute is achieved.

It is necessary for us to point here to a historic fact, namely that this is not the first time the United Nations has intervened to end a civil war. In the last decade the international organization took a number of measures to end civil wars in at least 19 states.

So is there any reason to exclude Yemen from this rule? And is it permissible for the world to stand with its hands tied while the killing and destruction continue in Yemen, merely to satisfy those who think that war alone will achieve their objectives?

The council is also urging the imposition of a ban on arms supplies to the two parties. Actually the council is saying "no" to pouring fuel on a blazing fire. So what is wrong with the position adopted by the international community? There is nothing wrong. It is a rational and wise position. How nice it would be if the two parties heeded it.

The two parties to this tragic war must accept the sincere UN appeal. They must heed the appeal of reason emanating from the UNSC Council. If they ignore this appeal, they will be ignoring not only the international community's will, but the will of the Yemeni people, who certainly want to live in security, peace, and stability, not in a civil war.

Aden Residents Warned of Booby-Trapped Articles

JN0606063694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

["Text" of appeal by visual and audio media to Aden District people "warning that the gang of crime and treason has distributed booby-trapped pens, toys, and watches to blow them up"]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The one who betrays his country cannot appreciate others because he lacks all feelings of citizenship in both heart and mind. Likewise, the one who plots to fragment his country will not hesitate to send all the sons of the country to the crematorium of death and annihilation. Every criminal who commits such crimes will not hesitate to perpetrate the ugliest of crimes toward others, be they men, women, youths, elderly, or children. Thus, the mania of crime and grudge led traitor agent 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the initiator of war and killer of children and women, to cherish the idea of killing children with trickery and cheap games in a bid to distort the citizens' feelings toward the future of the homeland. As for their present, unity has triumphed to the point of no return. The immortal existence of unity has been baptized for ever by the sacrifices of the brave heroes of the Armed and Security Forces. Otherwise, what is the meaning of criminal al-Bid's distribution of booby-trapped pens, toys, and watches in Aden streets and suburbs so that children can pick them up and get blown up under the claim that the one who distributed them and dropped them from planes are the forces of unity and legitimacy? They will then portray those victimized children to the world public as victims of the missiles which they falsely claim the forces of unity and protection of legitimacy are using to shell the city suburbs. It is easy to tell such lies and make such fabrications before us and the world. They are cheap lies about an ugly crime of killing children in such a vile and cowardly manner.

While revealing this bitter fact about the latest innovation of the criminal secessionists, we appeal to fathers and mothers and all citizens in the suburbs of the city of Aden—in (Kiraytar), al-Mu'alla, al-Tawwahi, (Hawr Makthar), al-Shaykh 'Uthman, al-Qallu'ah, al-Burayqah, al-Mansurah, al-Sha'b city, and other suburbs—to prevent children from picking up any pens, watches, toys, or housewares from the streets in front of their houses so that their lives will be saved and no distortions be sustained.

As for the criminal secessionist butchers, they will sooner or later receive their punishment. Our people will never be deceived by all their criminal methods and vile, treacherous actions. Tomorrow is close at hand for all to see.

Aden Threatens To Destroy North's 'Vital Interests'

EA0306164094 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1410 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Statement issued by the "Presidential Council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen" in Aden on 3 June]

[Text] There have been repeated statements from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's regime, some from its Council of Ministers and some from its foreign minister, that they are committed to the UN Security Council's resolution. Not satisfied with lying to our people, they are using the same approach with the regional and international organizations. Their forces continue to wage their barbaric and immoral aggression in all the battle zones which shows that people like this neither respect themselves nor the world. Their word cannot be trusted.

We once again ask the international community, with its different bodies and organizations, as well as the fraternal and friendly countries, to work with us to compel that regime to adhere to legitimacy and the basis of reality, or else to admit that it has no control. Consequently, they should leave the governing of the north to those who can establish self-respect and respect for the international community.

We shall courageously resist this aggression supported by all the sons of our people. We expect a decisive stand from the international community to put an end to the arrogance, vanity, and aggression directed against us from more than one state. Iraq's involvement has been confirmed, as well as others in this aggression, in a desperate attempt to occupy our territory and destroy our people's vital interests and violate what we hold sacred.

We call on the international community to witness that any continuation of this aggression against our people and our territory and our vital interests will compel us to destroy the vital interests in the north even though we have been careful to avoid that, because such interests are owned by the people of Yemen jointly with friends, and we are concerned to protect their interests and maintain our good relations with them. But the Sanaa regime is exploiting this concern of ours and every day attacks our vital interests with its missiles and aircraft.

Al-Bid Accuses Iraq, Jordan of Aiding Sanaa

NC0506074994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 5 Jun (MENA)—Dr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid has called on the Arabs to extend their hands to the Yemeni people and work on putting out the fire raging in Yemen. Al-Bid asked the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to take a decisive stand. He declared that the people in the south are expecting their state to be recognized.

In an interview with AL-KHALIJ newspaper today in the city of al-Mukalla, where he is currently residing, he said: I was expecting a decisive stand to be taken. The issue now is the security of the Gulf region, the stability of the people, and the interests of these two countries. Al-Bid affirmed that an effective cease-fire must be the priority. He said that continued fighting, which will go on for a long time, will not stop when Yemen is split in two. He also confirmed that he is ready to take up the issue of unity once again, build new institutions, and take new action, with wisdom and sanity this time round. Al-Bid said that unity is our right. It is not the unity of the House of al-Ahmar, but the unity of Yemen and the Yemeni people. We will continue our peaceful and democratic struggle for this cause.

Al-Bid revealed that he has information regarding the delivery of eight Iraqi aircraft the day before yesterday to Sanaa via Tashkent. He believes the mediators are Iranian. He said that there might be Iraqi support for Sanaa through Iran. As for reports about Jordanian aid to Sanaa, al-Bid said: We have information that Jordanian planes are flying to Sanaa carrying ammunition and weapons. On the returns from the oil resources in the south, al-Bid said that Exxon has frozen the profits from sales and deposited them in a bank for both sides. Production, however, continues and is increasing. It has now reached over 150,000 barrels per day. Production in Hadhramaut has reached 130,000 barrels per day. On the reasons for his transfer from Aden to Hadhramaut, al-Bid said: I have come to al-Mukalla for organizational purposes. The region has oil and the people must know that someone is protecting it.

Al-Bid Accuses Sanaa of Starting War

LD0506133794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secretary general, said that it was Sanaa that started the war in Yemen and that the war was forcibly imposed on the south.

In an interview he gave to AL-QABAS newspaper reporter 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Awadi in Mukalla, which was published today, Al-Bid said that the southerners entered the union willingly with sound convictions and dealt with it in the same sound spirit and with democratic means.

'Ali Salim al-Bid said that integration did not take place between the two parts of Yemen due to the existence of two types of upbringing, two types of thought, two types of mentality and two different methods. He said that the southerners wanted democratic pluralism in a way that conformed with the spirit of the age in the shadow of security, stability, and unity.

The YSP secretary general affirmed that southerners were treated as third- or fourth-class citizens in the union. He said that we have discovered from the way Sanaa treated us that we were two peoples, not one.

'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed that the war that was taking place in Yemen affected the security and stability of the

Gulf region and the interests of its peoples. He called on the Arab countries to work in the Yemeni people's interests, emphasizing that the continuation of the civil war in Yemen was not in the interests of the region as a whole.

'Ali Salim al-Bid said the announcement of the cessation of the south from the north has come for the benefit of Yemen, to prevent it from being divided into mini-states if the war, in which there would be no victor or vanquished, continues.

'Vice President' of DRY 'Confident' of Success

JN0406113294 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 30 May-5 Jun 94 pp 18-19

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "vice president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen," by Zaki Shihab; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shihab] How can you tip the military balance in your favor after all the achievements made by the northern troops on various fronts?

[Al-Jifri] Following the creation of a political balance, and after the declaration of the DRY [Democratic Republic of Yemen], the people's morale was lifted. Before this, they used to think the regime would continue as it is. However, when the people realized that this regime is for all citizens and that it is defending a just cause, and that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih intended to move the battle into their territory, their morale was lifted, and many of the DRY citizens began to go to the battlefield. Many of them are now receiving good training and we will send them to the battlefield in groups. We did not wish for this, because we are against fighting. However, when we are forced, we should confront them and our stands must be strong and clear. We are advocates of unity, but they have forced us to establish the DRY as a result of their arrogance and crudeness. I am sure that the sons of the DRY can check this arrogance.

[Shihab] You have spoken about measures that are being taken to reinforce your steadfastness. What are the precautionary measures taken to prevent the northern troops' advance toward Aden?

[Al-Jifri] The pillars of steadfastness have always been the same throughout history; the will, men, and capabilities. We have all this. We have the will to defend what is right, which gives us greater strength than the other side, even though the majority is with the other party.

[Shihab] When you say that you will not go back to unity until a regime which understands unity takes over, do you mean that there will be no dialogue with the regime in Sanaa?

[Al-Jifri] There is only room for talks with the current regime in Sanaa on one point; namely, on a cease-fire and on the withdrawal of its forces to where they came from. However, if wise people come from Sanaa to stop this madness, our hearts and minds will be open to them.

[Shihab] Do you believe that it is possible to topple the regime in Sanaa at the current stage?

[Al-Jifri] I am sure of this, because our people in the neighboring republic have faith in unity and in modernization. They have suffered from injustice, and have realized that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's actions have led to secession, destruction, and fighting. I do not think that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will remain in power after this.

[Shihab] Who was convinced of secession from among the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] members?

[Al-Jifri] Brother President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who enjoys sound experience and clear vision. Other members have continued to look for other alternatives. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] Are you confident that you will be able to restore the southern areas that have been occupied?

[Al-Jifri] One hundred percent. We will restore them either peacefully or by force.

Al-Jifri Appeals for Halt to Fighting

WA0406234194 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Our correspondent in Aden reported a short time ago that fire is illuminating Aden's sky because of missiles being fired by the southern forces to down northern forces' missiles.

The corredspondent affirmed that the vice president of the proclaimed Presidential Council in Aden, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, contacted him a short while ago asking that an appeal be addressed through the MBC to the international community to halt the war. This comes after the northerners pounded the city of al-Waht 60 km from Aden.

Al-Jifri said the attack on al-Waht killed and wounded many of its residents and displaced those who survived. He appealed to humanitarian organizations to supply Aden with doctors and medical aid.

Al-Jifri on Possible Call for Saudi Military Help

NC0406132194 Paris AFP in English 1251 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 4 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni forces may ask Saudi Arabia to send troops to help fight rival northern forces, the appointed vice president of the breakaway southern state told AFP Saturday [4 June].

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri said southern leaders had "not yet decided" whether to ask for Saudi intervention in the month-long war, but added "everything is possible and legitimate to protect our people".

He spoke as northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih edged closer to the south's bastion of Aden, capital of the self-declared Yemen Democratic Republic.

Al-Jifri was commenting on reports of reinforcements to the Saudi military presence on its border with the former South Yemen, which united with North Yemen four years ago.

He said the reinforcements were not a Saudi intervention but "a precaution that any state would take in the event of war in its neighbouring state."

Al-Jifri said: "I am sure that Saudi Arabia would not intervene unless it was asked to by somebody," adding such a request would be "internationally legitimate."

Southern forces loyal to the president's rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who declared the breakaway republic on May 21, have accepted UN Security Council Resolution 924 calling for an immediate ceasefire in the civil war.

Northern forces, now within 15 kilometers (nine miles) of Aden, have also said they are prepared to accept the UN resolution.

Saudi Arabia, which initiated the UN resolution along with other Gulf states, has denied northern charges that it is siding with the south in the war.

Saudi's King Fahd has urged north and south Yemen to implement the UN Security Council's call for a ceasefire.

"If the north and the south accept UN Security Council Resolution 924, it will be a good initiative and one that should lead to a definitive halt to the fighting," he said in an interview broadcast late Friday on the London-based Arabic television station MBC.

AFP on Request for Aid From Saudi Arabia

EA0506180694 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The vice chairman of the Presidential Council, Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, said that what had been reported in the media as a statement by him to the French news agency, AFP—that the Democratic Republic of Yemen would ask for military assistance from the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—had never happened.

In a statement to the Yemeni NEWS AGENCY, Aden, al-Jifri said that the Democratic Republic of Yemen had made no decision to ask for military intervention from any side. He stated that what had happened was that he had replied to a question by AFP on whether the Democratic Republic of Yemen would seek military assistance from any quarter by saying that such a decision had not yet been made, but that anything was possible, and that if we decided to demand anything, we would ask the United Nations to act on Resolution No. 924.

The vice chairman added that there was no mention in his reply concerning any country which held our trust and pride, such as our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council—the Republic of Egypt, Syria, and the rest of Arab countries.

The vice chairman said that when questioned on this matter, the AFP correspondent denied that he had filed this statement, or that his agency had published this version of the story.

Al-Jifri Addresses Nation on Conflict

EA0506184494 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Speech by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, "vice chairman of the Democratic Republic of Yemen Presidential Council"; place and date not given]

[Text] Dear brother citizens, I am honored to speak to you, in order to inform you as to what is happening in the country. On the political level, President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has played an extraordinary role, politically and militarily, in the mobilization in Hadramawt and Shabwah. Regarding international contacts, Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas left yesterday evening, accompanied by Muhsin Muhammad Abu-Bakr Bin Farid, the deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development; and brother Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, the deputy prime minister and minister of transportion; for a number of Arab countries, beginning with Saudi Arabia, where they are now. Brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj will go to a few countries and then to New York, to work together with Dr. 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Dali, to build the pillars of the fledgling Democratic Republic of Yemen.

At the military level we are, unfortunately, fighting a brutal enemy; we say a brutal enemy knowing that the people in the north are brothers of ours in Arabism, Islam, and in the homeland, but the officials of Sanaa are waging this unjustified attack in the name of a unity which could, in any way, be on the skulls of the people and through [words indistinct]. They issued orders to destroy all villages in their way. Our people, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the volunteers, led by the hero Brother Haytham Qasim Tahir, and all commanders of axes and commanders of all the armies, particularly the air force, are resisting. [passage omitted]

We did not initiate secession, it was Sanaa's rulers who started the separation when they rejected all the initiatives calling for a cease-fire. [passage indistinct]

We are the advocates of unity, and we will, God willing, build our Republic as a real model of justice and equality. We will unite with any ruler from Sanaa, provided he sets up the same regime on the same bases and principles. We will give our lives and blood so that our people are not subjected to despotism, injustice, and corruption.

One more point: We would like to send a message to our brothers in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, some of whom have joined us, and some who are still siding with the other party for either few dirhams, or because of old old scores. [passage indistinct] We said why do we not [word indistinct] a historic reconciliation between the people of the Democratic Republic of Yemen. [passage indistinct] We warned many times against ignoring the UN Security Council's resolution, but our brothers, the rulers of Sanaa, refuse to observe the UN Security Council's resolutions, or any call from any quarter, whether Arab or [word indistinct].

We call on those fraternal and brotherly countries to use their pressure and influence on those who could not get rid of their complexes, and who failed to comprehend the meaning of contemporary times, defying international legitimacy—as if past lessons taught to other countries were not enough.

We will fight to the last inch for our country, we will not allow the occupation of our country, and we will resist them with all the force we have. We realize that our people are standing behind us, and that they will fight beside us, whatever the price. [passage omitted]

I would like to make an important point: We in this state—president, government, and people, will resist [passage indistinct]. We do not want to kill, or fight, but we have the right to defend every inch of our land. On this occasion, I call on the youngsters in [words indistinct] to unite with us. Popular resistance groups have begun being formed, and they will be very well organized; they will go to the fronts and we will repulse the enemy from Aden, Lahij, Abyan, and Shabwah.

Dear citizens, be sure that we would not have taken this stance if we were not fully confident of Brother President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and if we we were not sure that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih—we wish he could see reason—has lost the way and waged this barbaric war, which we will not allow to continue. [passage omitted]

Al-Jifri Urges UN To Shoulder Responsibility

EA0606113694 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The vice president of the Presidential Council, brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, made a telephone call this evening to brother Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's envoy to Yemen. He explained to him the developments of the situation and the persistence of Sanaa's regime to reject commitment to international legitimacy, its indiscriminate shelling of peaceful citizens and the Aden oil refinery, and its barbaric acts against civilians which proved (?beyond a doubt) that Sanaa's regime did not seek unity, as it claimed, but sought occupation and control of the land of the Democratic Republic of Yemen after destroying its villages, towns, and vital installations.

In his conversation with Brahimi, brother al-Jifri urged the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility and pressure the aggressor to comply with the international legitimacy.

He made clear that our Army and people will continue defending their destiny, land, and honor [words indistinct] regardless of the might of the aggressor.

On his part, brother Brahimi, the figure internationally well- known for his struggle, affirmed that he would made contacts and efforts to put an end to this unjust aggression and to implement the UN Security Council Resolution No. 924. He expressed eagerness for Yemen's sons and their destiny.

Meanwhile, brother 'Abd-al-Rahman 'al-Jifri, vice president of the Presidential Council, affirmed to Yemeni and the Arab people [words indistinct] that we would struggle and resist [words indistinct] till we achieve [words indistinct].

Al-Jifri Claims Chemical Weapons Used in Shabwah

JN0306172294 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 May 94 p 1

[Report by Falih al-Saghir and Sa'ud al-Rayyis from Aden]

[Excerpt] Officials in Aden have welcomed international moves to halt the fighting in Yemen. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, named by southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid as his deputy, said in a telephone interview with AL-YAWM that, for now, international intervention is the only way to stop the war.

Al-Jifri predicted imminent international recognition of south Yemen's secession. He said delay in recognition was natural in view of the rapid succession of developments in Yemen.

'Ali Salim al-Bid stood ready to meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih anywhere, on condition that the meeting coincided with a cease-fire and a pullback by northern forces to the pre-unity lines. Victims of the offensive on Shabwah Governorate showed symptoms indicating the use of chemical weapons, al-Jifri said.

The southern official said he thought it unlikely that northern forces would enter Aden, citing strong defenses, rather than political considerations. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Justifies Secession, Denies YSP Rift

JN0406105194 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 30 May-5 Jun 94 p 13

[Excerpt] Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who has been tasked with forming a government in the [southern] Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], has stated that all the members of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau, including those outside Yemen, were consulted before the decision to proclaim the establishment of the DRY was made.

In an interview with AL-WASAT in London, al-'Attas said that while he was in the United States for medical treatment, he held consultations with many of his colleagues in the Political Bureau, including Salim Salih

Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general and Presidential Council member, whose name was not on the list of 16 members against whom arrest warrants were issued.

Al-'Attas, whom 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dismissed as prime minister when the situation deteriorated, said that the decision to go back to the pre-unity state of affairs was dictated by the facts on the ground. He said: War has dealt unity a blow and secession is a way to extricate Yemen from its dilemma. The return to the political formula that preceded unity is a preventive measure to save Yemen from fragmentation. Secession represents part of our efforts to introduce Yemen into the 20th century. Perhaps it is an advanced step to save the elite, which calls for the establishment of a state of institutions and law, to enhance the concept of political pluralism, and help modernize the state.

By affirming that he consulted all YSP Political Bureau members before the announcement of the secession, al-'Attas seems to be closing the door, if temporarily, in the face of Sanaa's attempts to sow a rift within the YSP by inviting northern leaders within the YSP—like Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Jarallah 'Umar, Yahya al-Shami, and Ahmad al-Salami, who all are YSP Political Bureau members—to hold a dialogue. Al-'Attas said: All such reports are mere rumors that show just how much the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping wish to divide the YSP. This has been their major concern since the proclamation of unity. In the early months of unity, they disseminated reports about the existence of the intransigent Fattah line within the YSP, which later proved to be all rumors that northern intelligence organizations propagated. He said that reports that Jarallah 'Umar has left Aden for the north is not true, as Jarallah 'Umar has been nominated to assume one of the ministerial portfolios in the new DRY government. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Interviewed on Separation, Policies

NC0306204594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Interview with "South Yemeni Prime Minister" Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by MBC correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit, in Aden; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] [Jazulit] I have just come here from Sanaa. One can feel that the Yemeni public in Sanaa, and perhaps outside Sanaa too, support the president of the Yemen Arab Republic in his efforts to maintain unity by any possible means, because unity is a popular demand. Therefore, there is a rift between the Yemenis in connection with this issue. What do you want to tell the Yemenis in Sanaa and the northern governorates who consider you separatists? You did secede. What do you want to tell the people, the ordinary citizens, who maintain that you seceded from the unified state?

[Al-'Attas] Regrettably, we in Yemen, just like the rest of the Arab homeland, handled the unity issue emotionally. Facts and reason had no influence on the formulation of the unity policies we pursued nor on the manner in which we implemented them.

[Jazulit] You therefore bear responsibility for the failure of unity...

[Al-'Attas, interrupting] Certainly everyone is to blame. The leaders bear the blame, certainly. When we the southern leaders united with the northern leaders to establish the Yemeni union, the public responded favorably to this great national dream. As a consequence, the Republic of Yemen was proclaimed. However, when the people realized that things were being done that were different from those they had expected under the aegis of unity, they began to declare their rejection of these acts and this form of unity. Perhaps the masses of the people in the southern and eastern governorates, currently the Democratic Republic of Yemen, made their feelings known during the parliamentary elections of 27 April 1993. They declined to give a single vote to the representatives of the government in the northern governorates. They gave their entire vote and all the parliamentary seats in their governorates to the representatives of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] which formerly represented the leaders of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The masses of the people in Sanaa, and indeed all Yemeni people, support the unity. However...

[Jazulit, interrupting] The masses of the people in Sanaa regard you as separatists.

[Al-'Attas] I do not believe that is true. The people in Sanaa know who the separatist really is. Perhaps the southernmost governorates of northern Yemen, that is the Yemen Arab Republic, are suffering more than the southern governorates ever suffered. We embarked on a union with the understanding that it would be an equal union between partners formed by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic, which would then integrate the institutions of both parts of the country. However, the brothers [in the north] looked on the union as an annexation. Some Sanaa leaders said that the part had returned to the whole. We found this reasoning unacceptable. We first expressed our rejection of this reasoning during meetings held in September 1990 between the YSP Political Bureau and the General People's Congress' General Committee.

[Jazulit] Let us again discuss the government that you head. It is a government without a parliament. Will this government be an interim government serving merely to explore the reactions of the Yemeni public here? What does the public expect from you?

[Al-'Attas] First of all, we have formed an interim parliament and called it the National Assembly.

[Jazulit] Does this parliament actually have a constitutional character?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, under the circumstances. This parliament is composed first of the representatives of the electoral constituencies who were elected in the southern and eastern governorates and who formerly made efforts to strengthen Yemeni unity. Representatives of the political forces in the Democratic Republic of Yemen were also included in this parliament. We believe that this National Assembly, which is an interim one, is sufficiently constitutional to monitor and supervise affairs of government legally.

[Jazulit] Where do you place public opinion here, in south Yemen, on your list of priorities, that is, on the list of the priorities of the government you will chair? You must take what the Yemeni public wants into account. The YSP must certainly have made errors for which the Yemenis have paid a price. Now you have formed a new state and you have a government and an interim parliament, as you mentioned. Could you tell me what the masses expect from you?

[Al-'Attas] I believe you were here in Aden when the Democratic Republic of Yemen was proclaimed, or indeed, reestablished. This republic has maintained all its institutions despite the union years as a result of the conduct of the Sanaa leaders. You have noticed how the masses of the people were very joyful at this proclamation, here in Aden and in all the other governorates. Regrettably, our people here in the southern governorates see themselves as entering a new stage of independence. Independent of whom? Of our brothers in Sanaa.

[Jazulit] This is a very dangerous sentiment.

[Al-'Attas] Of course, this is a very dangerous sentiment and we frequently warned that it might occur.

[Jazulit] Engineer al-'Attas, you are well-known as a statesman. At the same time, you are one of the YSP's leaders. I know, and you know too, that before the union between the two parts of Yemen was proclaimed, there were people in this party who rejected the union on the grounds that the time was not yet ripe for it. Apparently a few people in the YSP monopolized the decisions and did not take into account the general attitude of the YSP leaders and members. On this basis you embarked on a union which lasted for four years and then you returned to Aden. Do you hold yourselves responsible for the union's failure?

[Al-'Attas] Without a doubt, we bear some responsibility for the failure of the Yemeni union experiment. However, I totally agree with the view of Shaykh Sulayman Abu-Luhum. When the president asked him: Why do you criticize me, not the YSP and the southerners? He answered him: You bear 70 percent of the responsibility for the failure. The YSP bears 30 percent of the responsibility.

[Jazulit] Why does the president take 70 percent of the blame while you represent two basic parties in unified Yemen?

[Al-'Attas] When I speak of the president, I talk about the executive leadership in Sanaa. This leadership was a primary cause underlying the failure of this experience. I do not deny our responsibility. But compared to their responsibility, our responsibility is very slight.

[Jazulit] You did not reply to the second part of my question about your possible withstanding of self-criticism before the Yemeni people in the southern republic.

[Al-'Attas] We certainly exercise self-criticism all the time. When we make mistakes, we talk about our mistakes. The YSP in particular has been one of the parties that exercise self-criticism after each stage. Before unity, we criticized the prevailing situation and drew up a program for political and economic reform. I believe that self-criticism is a source of power; it makes room for progress and for avoiding mistakes. We certainly criticize ourselves when we make mistakes. Equally, when others make mistakes, we have to criticize them constructively.

[Jazulit] In your new republic, you raise the slogan of democracy and unity. Can you explain your strategy in the economic field?

[Al-'Attas] In our new policy in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, we are committed to developing the economy into a market economy and are working for economic freedom. This course is in full harmony with the democratic approach. It gives equal opportunities for competition, which means providing better services at lower prices. Therefore, we are working and will continue to work for establishing economic freedom and paving the way for private and share-holding companies to run the various aspects of the national economy within the framework of the state laws and legislations. In my view, this is an approach that enables us to develop, just like the approach of democratic political practice. It is true that this road is hard and long and involves a certain sacrifice, but it is the safe and guaranteed road to prosperity and social and economic development for all the masses.

[Jazulit] As long as we are talking about the economic approach, I learned that you are seriously contemplating applying to join the Gulf Cooperation Council. There is a geographic element involved. Moreover, you state that you are committed to a free economy. All these factors show that you are seriously pursuing that goal. Is this true?

[Al-'Attas] I believe that the states of the Arab archipelago must maintain the highest level of cooperation and coordination.

[Jazulit] What about joining the Gulf Cooperation Council?

[Al-'Attas] I believe that this is a good step that should be taken.

[Jazulit] A question before the end: Where does opposition stand in the political arena in your new republic? That is, of course, if there is opposition. During years of unity, the opposition played a central role in the meetings of the national dialogue committee. Its role was to reconcile the two major parties. After fighting broke out, unity disintegrated; some supported the south and are helping you in your new republic, while others stayed in and are getting support from Sanaa. The secession that led to the proclamation of a new republic here played a negative role at the opposition level and its future. Where does opposition stand in your new republic?

[Al-'Attas] In fact the opposition played an important role in phrasing the Pledge and Accord Document, the document because of which Sanaa launched a war. This is clear in the statements that started on 18 January and continued until a few days ago, when Sanaa added yet another condition, saying that it accepts negotiations, but not on the basis of the document. Why? Because the document was the right way to refute the divine authority claim of the executive leadership in Sanaa. That leadership thought that it had inherited the right to lead and hence it should continue to control Yemen. The Pledge and Accord Document would have ended such an era. But the leadership sensed that it was being threatened and launched war on Yemen. We are now in a state of war. The national unity that embraces all political and social powers is being enhanced in the institutions we established. Accordingly, the task of the government and the institutions we are building now is to remove the impact of war.

[Jazulit] Then is it a provisional government?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, a provisional government. As declared in the proclamation of the Democratic Republic of Yemen, we will prepare for local government and parliamentary elections within a year, God willing.

[Jazulit] You are coming closer to decisive developments.

[Al-'Attas] Certainly. But we feel safe, because everyone here will act in a civilized and responsible manner. No one will carry a machine gun, gun, or bomb. All citizens in the southern and eastern governorates are marching along the road of democracy peacefully. Therefore, we expect democracy to flourish. No citizen will be coerced or subjected to injustice or oppression in the Democratic Republic of Yemen.

[Jazulit] Engineer al-'Attas; thank you for this meeting.

[Al-'Attas] Thank you very much.

Al-Asnaj Appeals to Mubarak To End War

NC0406121094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who was recently appointed deputy prime minister and foreign minister of South Yemen, has appealed to President Husni Mubarak to act to save the Yemeni people from the continuing war. In a message to President Mubarak, he expressed his thanks to him and to the Egyptian people for the consideration given him during his stay in Egypt, which lasted for more than 10 years.

Al-Asnaj also sent a message to the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers expressing his utmost appreciation for their interest in developments in Yemen since the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling on the Yemeni parties to immediately halt the war and start negotiations.

Al-Asnaj Comments on Casualties, Fighting

NC0406191294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who has been recently appointed deputy prime minister and foreign minister in south Yemen, has stated that what must be done now is to stop the war in Yemen and open the door for capable and desirable Arab mediation, as represented by President Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates' President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

In an exclusive interview with MENA deputy chief editor Jalal Salim, al-Asnaj said that the ongoing war in Yemen has left approximately 80,000 people dead, wounded, or homeless. He pointed out that the real loser in this war is the Yemeni people before their leaders, since the war has seriously harmed the people's interests and institutions. He added that the advocates of war must return to reason and heed the appeals of their Arab brothers and the calls of the international community to start negotiations among the Yemeni parties concerned.

Asked if there were flaws when the Yemen unity was declared four years ago that have led to the current situation, al-Asnaj said: Naturally, there was a major flaw in the composition of the Yemeni unity because it preceded the preparations for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, as if it were tailored to suit Iraq's plan for expansion in the region. He noted that major components of the unity, which enjoys the support of the Yemeni people throughout the country, were lacking. He added: Two armies remained in Yemen, one in the north and another in the south. Two financial institutions, two diplomatic representations, two departments for security and general intelligence existed before and remained after the unity. In addition, the riyal remained the currency in the north and the dinar the currency in the south after the unity.

Al-Asnaj noted that the existing contradictions between the north and the south, in terms of the makeup of each society, had also been overlooked. The north, he added, is a society of tribes, the military, and the leadership, while in the south there are developed administrative institutions where experienced and qualified people find the opportunities they deserve on an equal footing, unlike the north, where opportunities go to the privileged and the loyal only.

Explaining the contradictions on which the Yemeni unity was based, al-Asnaj said that four years after this unity was declared, differences deepened and the views of the Yemeni Socialist Party and its representatives in the south and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his representatives in the north were not harmonious. He added that a third party, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, entered the composition of the bilateral alliance which had concluded the unity agreement after general elections were held in Yemen 14 months ago.

He noted that the ruling alliance became tripartite with the entry of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, which is a political organization comprising the Hashid Tribe and the (?politicized) Islamic Movement in Yemen and has links with Sudan. This, he said, prompted further (?contradictions) within the authority structure which made the Yemeni Socialist Party feel that its role in achieving unity had been ignored and that its equality with the northern side had diminished to a great extent.

Al-Asnaj explained that this situation had a direct effect on the ordinary citizens in the southern governorates when President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih decided that his men should run the southern governorates' affairs beginning with the post of governor and ending with the posts of customs directors.

He said the Yemeni citizen in the south suffered complications in handling his daily affairs, in addition to the increase in cost of living and the spreading unemployment. In light of these negative developments, he said, the unity became a source of misery for the southern citizen and a source of prosperity for the minority in the north. He went on to say that this explains part of the problems that exist today and which led to this war that we witness with pain.

Replying to a question on the Yemeni unity's fate and future in light of the current circumstances, he said "the government in the south" is eager to assert its belief in and concern for its right to reformulate the Yemeni unity in a manner that will erase the memory of the "pools of blood" that have been shed under the slogan of a false legitimacy and under undesired protection because the unity existed only on paper.

He accused Sanaa of unilaterally abrogating the Pledge and Accord Document recently and said: This gives the Yemeni public a new example of misbehavior.

He noted that anyone who declares war on his people and rejects the mediation of brothers and the international community, represented by the Security Council, loses all bases of constitutional legitimacy and every sense of struggle for the sake of the Yemeni people's unity because unity does not come about over the people's skulls.

He said that the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" will be an experiment and a beginning toward removing the peoples' bitterness and grudges that have led to a grinding war caused by Sanaa, which was enthusiastic about it.

Concluding the interview, al-Asnaj answered a question on his expectations about the recognition of the recently proclaimed government in south Yemen. He said there are Arab and international indications in this regard that might be announced soon.

Views UN Resolution, Future

NC0606063594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0412 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, "deputy prime minister and foreign minister in South Yemen," by Shadiyah Riyad; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Riyad] Egypt and the Gulf states continue to push the UN Security Council resolution on a cease-fire in Yemen. Do you think that the Council will actually succeed in bringing about a cease-fire in Yemen?

[Al-Asnaj] The UN Security Council certainly has a responsibility; it also has influence with which it can guarantee states' compliance with its resolutions. This has been made clear in more than one country: Iraq, Korea, and many other tense areas. The UN Security Council has succeeded in guaranteeing adherence to the UN Charter's provisions on crises and tension. What is happening in Yemen is a war in all senses of the word. The states that sponsored the draft resolution that was unanimously adopted by the highest UN authority are directly concerned with what is happening in Yemen, with its pan-Arab and national security aspects and with the safety of the region's people. They are interested in eliminating the causes of tension that hamper the development of our Arab societies.

[Riyad] The entire world community is awaiting the outcome of the mission of Lakhdar Ibrahim, who is heading the fact-finding committee. Do you believe that his task will be easy?

[Al-Asnaj] The task is certainly not easy, but the UN resolution makes it easier. One side has accepted the provisions of the UN resolution and its unconditional implementation with no reservations or delays. The other side has announced that it accepts the resolution but has so far raised obstacles and made excuses to avoid responding.

I believe that Sanaa will find the noose tightened around it. I think it has to declare its actual position and its real intentions: Whether or not it will recognize the Yemeni people's right to determine their own fate, live in peace and safety, and scorn rulers who endanger their lives and public institutions. Sanaa is fully responsible for its decision to stop or continue this war. If it continues, the war will certainly not be in Sanaa's interest, because the international community will have taken a certain stance to deter the advocates of war in Yemen.

[Riyad] Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal said during the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers that a continuing state of war in Yemen would reflect negatively on the Gulf states and that if it continues, the Gulf states will take certain measures to deal with it. What measures did he mean?

[Al-Asnaj] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal was expressing the Saudi Kingdom's and the GCC's stand and their actual vision of the dimensions of this grim war and its serious repercussions on the region to which we belong. No political analyst would be surprised by al-Faysal's remarks, which express concern and a desire to eliminate the causes of tension and war in Yemen. Once again, it is Sanaa's responsibility either to continue to be a source of tension for Yemen and the region or to live in harmony with the region's people and respond to the Arab will. Egypt, Syria, and all the GCC states have said that the war in Yemen must stop and that everyone should return to the negotiations and find a political solution, after first unconditionally stopping the fighting.

[Riyad] You have accepted appointment as deputy prime minister and foreign minister. What is the nature of the job you have been entrusted with at this stage?

[Al-Asnaj] Whoever accepts responsibility at this stage must sincerely seek joint action with all the good elements in the Arab world—the shrewd leadership of which is embodied by the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Husni Mubarak, and all our brothers in the GCC—to end the state of war in Yemen and resume talks on a political solution that avoids hegemony, control, and military ambitions, for which there is no room in today's world.

[Riyad] There is talk about a federation between the north and south. Is this matter contemplated?

[Al-Asnaj] All these matters will be considered once the frenzied war stops. The political leadership in Sanaa insists on this war. It lost its legitimacy the minute it declared that war.

[Riyad] Thank you Mr. al-Asnaj.

[Al-Asnaj] Thank you.

Aden Radio Claims Sudan Sent Supplies to North

EA0306204194 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Well-informed political and military sources have spoken about the political and military dilemma in which the ruling regime in Sanaa has found itself because it insists on continuing the war against the Democratic Republic of Yemen by seeking more military supplies. These sources linked the recent visits of Yahya Husayn al-Arashi, member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress, and Muhammad 'Abdallah (al-Yadumi), the third man in the Yemeni Alliance for Reform [al-Tajammu al-Yamani Li-al-Islah] to Khartoum and the visit paid to Sanaa today by the Sudanese minister of information, 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, as the envoy of Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The sources said the visit was linked to the question of military supplies sent from Sudan to the Sanaa regime.

'National Assembly' Meets, Appoints Officers

EA0606140694 Aden Democratic Republic of Yemen Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The National Assembly Presidium held a [word indistinct] meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Speaker Anis Hasan Yahya. During this meeting, the assembly discussed a number of topics on its agenda and made the necessary decisions. The presidium endorsed the distribution of duties among its members as follows:

(?Sha'fil 'Umar Ali), deputy assembly speaker for parliamentary affairs and foreign liaison;

Ahmad Ubayd Bin Daghr, deputy assembly speaker for organizational and technical affairs;

'Abd-al-Qawi Muhammad Rashad, deputy assembly speaker for permanent committees' affairs;

'Abd-al-Rahman Asim, deputy assembly speaker for the affairs of the government apparatus and the public and mixed sectors.

The presidium also endorsed the appointment of Brother Taha 'Abdallah Muhammad as secretary general of the National Assembly Presidium.

Technical Cooperation Agreement Signed With Jordan

JN0306113394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The Iraqi and Jordanian Interior Ministries today signed an agreement for joint cooperation in the technical and administrative fields. The agreement was signed by Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan for Iraq and by his counterpart Salamah Hammad for Jordan.

During the signing ceremony, Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan voiced happiness and satisfaction over the march of brotherly ties between Iraq and Jordan, as demonstrated by the joint programs and plans that were achieved during the talks. The interior minister called on the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples to continue their efforts on the path of struggle and to rally behind their leaders to defend the Arab nation's' sovereignty and unity and foil all conspiratorial imperialist and Zionist schemes in the region.

Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad noted satisfaction in visiting his second country, Iraq, and signing the bilateral cooperation agreement. He also said he was pleased with the comprehensive progress in building and reconstruction he saw in Iraq, as well as the unity and cohesion among the Iraqis and their support for their wise leader, Saddam Husayn, in confronting the unjust blockade imposed on them and foiling the schemes and threats aimed at infringing on their steadfastness and heroic defiance.

The minister reaffirmed Jordan's firm position in support of Iraq, and underlined the inevitability of the triumph of goodness and right, represented by Iraq under President Saddam Husayn's leadership.

The signing ceremony was attended by a number of officials from the two Interior Ministries and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

More Than 600 Killed in Kurdish Factional Clash

NC0506064994 Paris AFP in English 2233 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Salah-al-Din, Iraq, June 4 (AFP)—More than 600 people are believed to have died in ongoing clashes between rival Kurdish groups at Halabjah in north-eastern Iraq, a member of the opposition Iraqi National Congress said Saturday.

The source who asked not to be named said the clashes had left "probably more than 600 dead," most of them members of the Kurdistan Patriotic Union (KPU) [PUK] of Jalal Talabani.

The KPU said however that it had suffered few casualties.

Clashes erupted at the beginning of May in various parts of Kurdistan mainly between the KPU and its biggest rival the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Mas'ud al-Barzani. After a rash of ceasefires, hostilities died down at the end of May except in Halabjah and Qal'at Dizah near the border with Iran where the KPU is fighting a pro-Iranian group, the Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL).

The KIL led by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Uthman has allied itself with the KDP.

According to sources from all sides, the KPU has lost control of Halabjah after taking the village at the beginning of May.

A delegation including members of the INC and leaders of the warring factions is due to visit Halabjah to try to arrange a new ceasefire.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday that since May about 4,000 people had been killed and hundreds injured in the fighting between Kurds.

The KDP and the KPU accused each other of executing prisoners taken during the fighting. The KDP gave the INC a list of 51 names, saying they had been captured by the KPU and killed, INC sources said.

Amnesty International said in a recent report that the KPU had submitted 49 names of prisoners it said the KDP had executed.

Talabani Declares Unconditional End to Fighting

NC0406172194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1626 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], announced last night, Friday, through the PUK television and radio stations in the region of Kurdistan a unilateral peaceful PUK initiative which aims to end the current crisis and to normalize the situation in the region.

This initiative aims to strengthen the spirit of brotherhood and cordiality among the sons of Kurdistan and to continue the reconstruction of what has been destroyed by the Iraqi regime's aggressive and [word indistinct] policies. The initiative also aims to consolidate the spirit of democratic freedoms and human rights in Kurdistan and to enable the region's government and elected parliaZent to exercise their work in the service of the sons of Kurdistan.

The initiative stressed the need to strengthen the alliance between the members of the Kurdistan Front, especially between the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], so as to proceed with the unification of all resources and capabilities on solid bases and to direct them against our people's enemies and the dictatorial regime in order to bring it down and establish a democratic, federal, and pluralistic regime in Iraq.

Brother Talabani said in his announcement: To achieve these noble and legitimate objectives, the PUK has, on its part, decided the following:

1. To stop the fighting immediately and unconditionally, to withdraw all the PUK forces from the areas of

(?fighting), and to return these forces to their former bases under the supervision of the Kurdistan Front and the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC].

2. To release all persons detained and arrested by the PUK.

3. To stop all forms of media campaign and not to reply to media campaigns.

4. To let all government employees affiliated with the PUK return to their departments immediately so as to extend their services to the citizens.

The brother secretary general expressed his thanks and gratitude to all the sons of Irbil for their noble feelings and sincere efforts to calm and normalize the situation. He also sincerely thanked the sons of al-Sulaymaniyah for their goodwill efforts for that purpose. Brother Jalal expressed his gratitude to all the officials and leaders of the parties in the Kurdistan Front, the UNIC, the KDP, the PUK, and other Kurdish political forces for their sincere efforts to put an end to the extraordinary situation and normalize the situation as quickly as possible. He also thanked the Kurdish and Iraqi parties, especially the Assyrian and Turkmen ones, and also the professional and mass organizations for their serious and great efforts to tackle the problem, for their desire to uphold the atmosphere of brotherhood, love, and cordiality, and for presenting peaceful solutions to all the differences.

Brother Jalal Talabani called on all our people in Kurdistan to act and to take the following facts into account:

1. To take care of the spirit of brotherhood and peace between us in view of its positive effects at the domestic and foreign level.

2. To achieve a comprehensive and general reconciliation that will include all the parties in Kurdistan.

3. To condemn the violations of human rights and deviations from Kurdish, revolutionary, and Islamic values and norms.

4. Not to squander the foreign support and backing by speeding up the efforts to tackle problems, reorganize ourselves, and let the region's government and parliament perform their normal duties.

Brother Talabani referred to: the need to consolidate security and to maintain the brotherly ties and the atmosphere of cordiality and rapport in the region of Kurdistan; the need to unite all the forces and efforts in order to confront the plots of our people's enemies who want to thwart this experiment, pour oil on fire, and sow sedition and conflict.

Brother Jalal called on all to rally and cooperate to entomb these vile plots being hatched by our people's enemies and to stand together in one trench against the enemies instead of standing in opposing trenches.

He demanded the immediate and rapid implementation of the clauses mentioned in the initiative.

Concluding his initiative, brother Jalal Talabani called on the struggling masses of Kurdistan, all their political forces, and all the faithful sons of our people to work together toward consolidating law and order, strengthening democracy and human rights, protecting our people's gains without being selfish, and working together toward having a Kurdistan where we all enjoy freedom, democratic, and human rights.

Kurdish Leaders Barzani, Talabani Meet in Irbil

NC0506200294 Paris AFP in English 1924 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, June 5 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdistan's main leaders, Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, met here Sunday for the first time since fierce clashes broke out between their rival factions a month ago.

The meeting in the northern Iraqi town of Irbil took place at the initiative of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of Arab and Kurdish groups opposed to President Saddam Husayn.

The INC announced after the talks that a new joint operation room was being formed to implement a ceasefire between Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The PUK leader, abroad when the fighting broke out in early May, was airlifted back to northern Iraq last week on board a Turkish helicopter to overfly KDP-controlled areas.

After several ceasefire accords, calm returned to most of Iraqi Kurdistan at the end of May. But fresh clashes erupted Saturday in the regions of Halabjah and Qal'at al-Dizah, near the Iranian border, according to the CNI.

The CNI says more than 600 people are believed to been killed in the power struggle between the PUK and KDP, which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War.

Talabani, Barzani Meet Iranian Kurdish Party Members

Iran's Role in Kurdistan Discussed

NC0506175194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] received a delegation of the Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party Political Bureau in his office in Irbil at 1700 yesterday. The delegation came to welcome his return home. PUK Political Bureau members (Nushiru Mustafa), Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, and Dr. Kamal Fu'ad also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, brother Talabani's peaceful overture, and ways of ending the tense situation in Kurdistan. They also discussed Iranian interference in Kurdistan's affairs.

The delegation expressed appreciation for brother Talabani's peaceful initiative and indignation at the interference by certain forces which are supported by Iran.

Efforts To Stabilize Situation Viewed

JN0506081394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1618 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Salah al-Din resort town—Brother Struggler Mas'ud Barzani, leader of our Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], today, 4 June 1994, received at the Political Bureau headquarters in Salah al-Din resort town, a delegation from the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran [KDPI] led by 'Abdallah Hasan Zadah, deputy secretary general and political bureau member of the KDPI.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the current situation in Kurdistan and our people's efforts to restore normal conditions. The meeting was attended by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman and 'Izz-al-Din Barwari, members of the KDP political bureau; and (Faransu Hariri), KDP Central Committee member and official in charge of national relations.

Talabani Receives INC Official in Irbil 2 Jun

NC0306194694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] At his private residence in Irbil last night, Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, received Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidium of the Iraqi National Congress [INC], who was accompanied by Salah al-Naqib.

After Hasan al-Naqib and Salah al-Naqib expressed their happiness over the safe return of Brother Talabani from abroad, the two sides exchanged views on the present situation in Kurdistan, the recent regrettable incidents in the region, and the means of normalizing and calming the situation.

Peres Explains Letter to 'Arafat on Jerusalem

Letter Sent to Norwegian Minister

TA0506065994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres returned home from Morocco Friday [3 June] and said Israel insists that the Palestinian self-rule would be in Jericho and not in Jerusalem.

[Begin Peres recording] I did not send any letter to Yasir 'Arafat. I sent a letter to the Norwegian foreign minister in response to his letter to me. My letter was not even addressed top secret and contained my remarks to the Knesset. The reason for my action was our insistence that the Palestinian civilian authority be based in Jericho and not in Jerusalem. I said we do not want to harm the spiritual, cultural, medical institutions in Jerusalem, but that the authority would deal only with Jericho. I would like to remind you that the negotiations almost blew up over the Jericho issue because of our insistence that the autonomy's center would be in Jericho. [end recording]

Document Pledges To Maintain Status Quo

NC0606123594 Paris AFP in English 1149 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Jerusalem, June 6 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed Monday [6 June] that he had pledged in a "secret" letter to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to maintain the status quo in Jerusalem and paved the way for him to pray in the holy city.

Peres said he undertook to allow Palestinian institutions which were in Jerusalem before the signing of the autonomy agreement last September to remain.

"The letter does not given any commitment about Palestinian institutions established in the city after the signing," Peres told reporters.

He stressed that the new Palestinian self-rule authority would have to set up all its bodies in the autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

The full text would be published later Monday.

"It's a letter which has been blown out of proportion," said Peres, who has previously denied the existence of such a missive.

A senior foreign ministry official said the letter was sent to his Norwegian counterpart Johan Jorgen Holst last October 13 and it was passed to 'Arafat.

Peres wrote that Israel would "refrain from any action which would restrict freedom of religion or restrict access to the holy sites," said the official who refused to be named.

"The undertaking concerns those who live in the city and visitors of the holy sites," the official added.

The letter clearly opens the way for 'Arafat to pray at the Dome of the Rock, which Moslems consider their third holiest site.

Peres also underlined that Jerusalem would be one of the subjects for negotiations when talks on a permanent settlement for the Palestinians start after two years of autonomy.

"Israel has always understood the importance and religious significance of Jerusalem for the monotheistic beliefs and will continue to respect the unique value of the city for Jews, Christians and Moslems," Peres wrote.

The official said the missive was intended to remain secret but after 'Arafat and other Palestinians alluded to written pledges on Jerusalem the decision was taken to release the contents.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last month strenuously denied such a letter existed when 'Arafat declared he had received a written undertaking on Jerusalem.

"There is no secret agreement. There is no document which has not been published. Everything has been made public," Rabin told parliament on May 12.

The right-wing opposition charged he was lying during a bitter debate.

On May 30, Rabin appeared to climb down, telling a parliamentary committee: "According to my information, 'Arafat has received only a piece of a speech by Peres on the freedom of religion and access to Moslem holy places in Jerusalem."

Amid growing controversy over Jerusalem, which both Israel and the Palestinians claim as capital, Faysal al-Husayni, the PLO leader on the West Bank, confirmed the existence of secret Israeli undertakings.

Al-Husayni said: "There is a letter from Israel and the question of Jerusalem and the PLO institutions in the city and on other subjects. I cannot say any more."

A close aide to Peres told AFP: "He has committed two errors. First he denied this letter existed when it does exist and he should have published it when it was sent.

"At that time no would have paid it any attention."

"Now it will pour oil on the flames and the right will use the story against us."

Right-wingers are preparing a major campaign to keep 'Arafat out of Jerusalem and intend to throw a human cordon around the city.

The PLO leader was expected to visit the autonomous enclave of Jericho in the middle of this month. However at the weekend he suggested further delays unless donor countries came up with money for autonomy.

Israel captured east Jerusalem from Jordanian rule in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it.

In 1980, Israel declared the holy city its united and eternal capital, but foreign countries do not recognize the annexation and maintain their embassies in Tel Aviv.

Rabin Denies U.S. Intervention Ended Rocket Attacks

TA0506184494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Excerpt] A Syrian appeal to Iran was the factor that stopped the Hizballah Katyusha volleys last weekend, diplomatic sources in Damascus said. The Syrians intervened after receiving an Israeli message via the United States. [passage omitted]

[A report on Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 5 June adds: "The prime minister says the calm on Israel's northern border and the absence of Katyusha rockets had been achieved even before the Americans approached Syria with a demand to curb Hizballah. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the prime minister made these remarks at today's cabinet meeting."]

Peres Announces Agreements With Morocco's King Hassan

TA0306175894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who returned from Morocco tonight, says that he and King Hassan agreed to launch telephone and postal lines from Morocco to Israel, and that reciprocal diplomatic representations will be probably opened by the end of the year.

Replying to a question, Peres said the letter with portions of his Knesset address on the issue of Jerusalem, which had been sent to the Norwegian foreign minister, was not even marked as confidential, and it contained no new elements. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] Mr. Peres, it was hoped that this visit would result in some kind of a formal link between the two countries. Why did it not happen?

[Peres] I do not know whose hopes they were. Our only hope was to move the major multilateral convention, the one that was slated to be held in Amman, to Morocco. I finalized this point with the Americans; I finalized it with the king; a date has been set. Israel will participate in it, as will many Arab countries; it will be unprecedented. If you ask me, it matters to me more than having a consular official here and there.

[Sukenik] Still, when do you expect a Moroccan representation to be inaugurated in Israel?

[Peres] I know the date, but I will not divulge it.

[Sukenik] This year?

[Peres] Yes, possibly before the end of this year. [end recording]

[Sukenik] While Mr. Peres was abroad, he was informed by the prime minister on the telephone of the appointment of Efrayim Sne, a Rabin camp member, to a ministerial position. Peres had been opposed to the appointment, and his camp members reported his harsh reaction after the fact.

[Begin recording] [Peres] It is all absolute nonsense. I spoke with the prime minister. We reached an understanding, and I am positive the understanding will be adhered to.

[Sukenik] What is that understanding?

[Peres] When it is publicized, I will announce it even on television. [end recording]

Four Conferences Planned

TA0406091394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Ido Baum; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Peres] During my visit to Morocco we agreed on four conferences to be held in Morocco with Israel's participation. One, the multilateral economic meeting to be held next month, in the beginning of June [as heard]; two, a conference dealing with desertification initiated by us; three, a conference on Middle East development scheduled for late October or early November. The Americans are deeply involved in preparing this conference. There will also be a business conference between Israel and Morocco.

Most of us are obsessed with the past, with symbols and gestures. There is a different world out there, however, with different rules, and I see things differently.

[Baum] Will future political relations be facilitated by the economic relations to be forged in these conferences?

[Peres] If you really want to understand, allow me to explain with these phrases. The idea is that American, European, and the Japanese governments grant their companies guarantees for investments in the Middle East. We will give all these companies a list of proposals for factories in the entire Middle East—both regional and national factories. When they decide on a certain factory, their government will guarantee their investment. This is unprecedented—an extremely original idea that Clinton and other leaders have accepted. You should not compare this to anything else, because it is not similar to anything else. This conference, which will be held in Marrakech, is being organized by two companies, one European and one American, along with the U.S. and Israeli Governments. A senior U.S. Administration representative will participate in the conference, apparently Christopher himself. Some 1,500 companies worldwide will participate.

We have to realize that at the present time the main problem worldwide is economic prosperity, education, and health. This is what people are interested in. People are sick and tired of all this diplomatic business, of the outworn diplomatic minutiae.

[Baum] Mr. Foreign Minister, if we are speaking about the economic issue, I would like to address Yasir 'Arafat's economic problems. He is complaining that he is not receiving the aid he was promised.

[Peres] He, too, is not doing what he has to do. We are trying to help in this respect, too.

[Baum] Do you think foreign countries could provide more aid?

[Peres] They can do so and are willing to do so. 'Arafat, however, must establish institutions that have what is known as transparent bookkeeping. No democratic country will give even one penny unless it knows precisely where and for what purpose it is being used. Look, no country will donate toward vague and unclear aims. The truth is, however, that we are going to lose the world. Look, the world is big and does not revolve around us. We are not the only country in the world. Many places in the world are crying out for help and aid. This is one of the reasons why we should act more quickly. There is still a lot of goodwill toward us, but it will not hold out for ever. We must harbor no illusions about this. We must act more quickly in this issue; we are trying to facilitate this process as much as possible, but we are encountering considerable difficulties from all sides. You know, there is an American expression entitlism, I am entitled to [last five words in English], and 'Arafat for some reason seems to subscribe to this view. We have to realize that the world is built on mutuality, on give and take. Nobody deserves to receive bread from heaven; this happened only once to the Jewish people, when it kept them going for 40 years in the desert.

[Baum] Turning to another issue, Mr. Foreign Minister, while you were abroad the press was rife with speculations regarding your reaction to the fact that no one from your camp was appointed as a new minister.

[Peres] I am not advancing a camp, I have colleagues and I like to advance all of them. You know, people are trying to depict me in a completely unrealistic way. I am totally engrossed by the peace process. I support the advancement of young colleagues, but I am against appointments done on a factional and cliquish basis. I have advanced many young colleagues. I have never posed any conditions and I do not intend to do so in future.

[Baum] Is there no rift between Yitzhaq Rabin and yourself regarding this issue?

[Peres] There is no rift. The only issue that can cause a rift is the peace process. I already said as much at the beginning of my career in the government and I keep repeating this. Nobody can make me deviate from my path. I am not interested in press speculations on power games and on who screwed who. I will aid any young and talented Labor Party member, and those outside the party too.

[Baum] Is there any particular candidate for such aid?

[Peres] I will issue an announcement when I have something to announce.

Delegation To Hold 'Informal Meeting' With Jordan

TA0406172794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Elyaqim Rubinstein, chief Israeli delegate to the talks with Jordan, will leave tonight for Washington at the head of a delegation that will hold an informal meeting with the Jordanians on the border and water issues. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent adds that the discussions of the tripartite Israeli-Jordanian-U.S. conference on economic issues will also be launched on 6 June. The decision to hold the encounter was made following Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' meeting with Crown Prince Hasan at the White House. The meeting will deal with the impact of the Israeli-PLO economic agreement on Jordan. [passage omitted]

Rubinstein Foresees 'Slow Progress'

TA0506063894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Elyaqim Rubinstein, who heads the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan, has expressed cautious optimism about Jordan's readiness to make progress in the negotiations.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] We are leaving for a very official trilateral—Israeli-Jordanian-American—meeting, which is a continuation of previous trilateral meetings. It will deal with commercial ties and development of the Jordan Rift Valley, which are real and complex issues. What other issues on the periphery of those talks will be discussed? We meet with the Jordanians on all sorts of things linked to the agreed upon agenda, but I think that the main focus is in those trilateral talks.

What chance does such a meeting have? The likelihood is there will be slow progress—like the negotiations with Jordan in general. These negotiations can be implemented, but are constantly under pressures, which do not come from Israel, but from the other side. We try to make as much progress as possible, taking into account those pressures. [end recording]

That was Elyaqim Rubinstein prior to his departure for Washington.

'Harsh Message' Sent to Saudis on 'Negative Behavior'

TA0606110594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Israel has asked the United States to deliver a harsh message to Saudi Arabia so that the latter will change its negative behavior regarding the peace process and primarily the multilateral talks. Senior political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that the United States has relayed the message to Riyadh, calling on it to change its position.

Israel presented its complaints regarding Saudi Arabia to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and made an official appeal to the State Department in which Israel detailed the negative steps Saudi Arabia has taken. Israeli representatives have said that the Saudis have become an obstructive element in every regional or multilateral forum, placing obstacles in the way of decisions on easing the Arab boycott and normalizing relations between Arab countries and Israel. Another claim Israel has made is that Saudi Arabia refuses to aid the establishment of the Palestinian autonomy.

Israeli sources have said that according to information obtained in Jerusalem, Saudi Arabia pressured Oman and Qatar to slow down their normalization with Israel. The two emirates which neighbor on Saudi Arabia had agreed to host Israeli delegations in multilateral talks and started economic talks with Israeli elements. The foreign ministers of both countries met with Foreign Minister Peres.

The charges against Saudi Arabia emerged against the background of its conduct at the multilateral talks on arms control, held in Qatar last month. Unlike in the previous rounds of talks, the Saudis dispatched a rather high-level delegation to Qatar, but the delegation foiled every attempt to make progress in ratifying a declaration of principles and establishing confidence-building measures.

"The Saudis have become the pawns of the Syrians, representing them in the multilateral talks," political sources said last night in Jerusalem. "They have been torpedoing every proposal and preventing progress, claiming that regional cooperation is unattainable without the participation of Syria and Lebanon. That means that Saudi Arabia has been granting Syria a right to veto every step of the talks."

Israel and Saudi Arabia had attempted to establish a direct channel of contacts between them through their ambassadors in Washington. Last year, Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, held a series of secret meetings with the Saudi ambassador, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan. The meetings were held in the private residences of U.S. officials and Jews who are the prince's acquaintances. Rabinovich reported the content of the meetings to the highest political echelons in Jerusalem.

The meetings between the two stopped several months ago, but Israeli sources have claimed that there is no link between the termination of the talks and the current Israeli charges against Saudi Arabia.

Foreign Ministry working papers regarding the future of the political process say that Saudi Arabia, as a major representative of the Gulf states, should be given a leading role in the process.

Peres on Saudi Actions

TA0606112694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Saudi Arabia is obstructing the peace process. He told reporters in Jerusalem the Saudis had broken their promise to lift the Arab boycott and had taken a negative position at the arms control talks. On other issues, Peres said Israel insists that the Palestinian autonomy institutions be in Jericho, not Jerusalem, and he hoped Israel relations with Italy would remain cordial in spite of the appointment of three neofascists to the new Italian Government. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Foreign Minister Peres was speaking to reporters after a meeting with the visiting Philippines Foreign Minister Roberto Romulo. Peres was asked if it is true that Saudi Arabia is obstructing the peace process.

[Peres] Yes, there are disappointments in our country about the Saudis' position on two or three issues.

[Katzenell] At the beginning of the peace process, Peres said, Saudi representatives promised Jewish audiences in the United States that if Israel changed its settlement policy, the Arabs, including Saudi Arabia, would lift the economic boycott against Israel.

[Peres] We did our part. I do not think it was reciprocated.

[Katzenell] In addition, Peres said, the Saudis adopted a negative attitude at the recent multilateral talks on arms control in Qatar. [passage omitted]

[Katzenell] Turning to the problem of the three neofascist ministers in the new Italian Government, a Foreign Ministry official told me this morning that Israel is not even considering the recall of its ambassador. Foreign Minister Peres admitted that the neofascists do pose a problem, but Israel would do nothing hasty. He would be meeting the new Foreign Minister Antonio Martinio and would listen to what he had to say sympathetically. [end recording]

Beilin Proposes 'Chillier' Relations With Italy

TA0506184694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpt] Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino would like to visit Israel soon in order to settle matters in the wake of the appointment of three neofascist ministers to Silvio Berlusconi's new government. The new government has yet to receive Israel's blessing. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is demanding that Israel cool its ties with Italy in the wake of the appointments. Italy's Jewish community is opposed to such a move. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports on the controversy:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Today the world should hear Israel loud and clear, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said. He suggests taking resolute steps toward chillier relations with Italy following the appointment of neofascist ministers to the Berlusconi cabinet.

Israel did not applaud Italy's political upheaval, and Rabin has deliberately refrained from congratulating the new prime minister. Beilin has already ordered a freeze on the departure of a delegation to a cultural conference.

[Beilin] Obviously, we cannot take a light view of this. It is the first time a party with neofascist elements is participating in a European government.

[Rosen] Beilin's adamant position is opposed by many Italian Jews, as well as members of the professional Foreign Ministry echelons who believe Israel should wait and judge the neofascist ministers on the basis of their actions and pronouncements as of now. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Cabinet Meets; Shahal Comments on Jerusalem Issue

TA0506155494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The cabinet today approved working permits for 35,000 Arabs of the territories to enter Israel. Approximately 20,000 have been designated for the construction sector.

Next week, the cabinet is due to discuss the request of Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer for another 20,000 permits. After the cabinet meeting, Minister Yosi Sarid said any Palestinian with what he called a serious and urgent medical case, will be allowed to receive treatment in Israel. Also at the cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he believed there appears to be positive movement by Jordan in the peace talks. Security officers told the ministers they were pleased with the way the Palestinian police were operating in the self-rule areas, but they said the fact that members of the police are not getting their salaries could cause problems for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Police Minister Shahal has rejected Yasir 'Arafat's claim that Israeli rule has destroyed the Palestinian education, health, and housing services in Gaza and Jericho. In an interview with Jack Katzenell, Shahal said the economic progress of the Palestinians in the territories has surpassed that of the Arabs in Syria, Iraq, and even Jordan. The minister said it was high time Yasir 'Arafat came to Gaza instead of just talking. Shahal also rejected Likud opposition charges that the government had given Yasir 'Arafat a secret letter about the future of Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] We did not give or submit any commitment on the issue of Jerusalem beyond the documents that have been submitted to the Knesset after the Cairo agreement.

[Katzenell] Mr. al-Husayni was saying that he and the other Palestinian leaders in and around Jerusalem are going to continue establishing Palestinian offices, Palestinian institutions, Palestinian governing bodies here in Jerusalem. Where do you stand on this? Is this a violation of the agreement and what precisely are you, as police minister, going to do about it?

[Shahal] Well, certainly if the Palestinians are going to establish Palestinian organizations and institutes in Jerusalem, this is a violation of the agreement, of the declaration of principles, and we certainly are going to take measures to prevent the establishment of such institutes in Jerusalem.

[Katzenell] What about armed Palestinian security guards? We hear that he has armed guards at Orient House.

[Shahal] This should be licensed by the Israeli Police and certainly there will be no armed force in Jerusalem which does not belong to the Israeli police force. If any person will do such a thing then he is violating the laws and he will be arrested like any other person within the state of Israel.

[Katzenell] Lastly sir, Yasir 'Arafat said yesterday that Israel is leaving scorched earth in Gaza. The educational system is destroyed, the housing is destroyed, everything is destroyed. All the services are destroyed, he says, because of the occupation. What is your reply to this? Has Israel neglected and even destroyed the civilian infrastructure of the territories?

[Shahal] Compared to what we received after the Six-Day War, the situation in health, education, and the infrastructure is immensely better than what we received. I think that what we have done during that period of time cannot be compared even to the progress in other Arab countries. The Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza have more telephones per family, more cars per family, than those say in Syria, or in Iraq, or even in Jordan. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 5 June also reports that "the government has approved a loan of 400 million shekels to the Kupat Holim Klalit Health Fund. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Police Minister Moshe Shahal supported appointing a receiver to the health fund, but they were the only ministers who voted against the loan. Meretz ministers Yosi Sarid and Ya'ir Tzaban abstained. Finance Minister Shohat said he would honor the cabinet's decision though he said it did not provide the solution necessary, and that drastic steps are necessary to reform the health fund."]

More Than 30 Arabs Wounded in Hebron Riots

TA0406155094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Over 30 local residents were wounded in riots in Hebron today. Of these, 25 people were wounded by rubber bullets; they were treated and sent home. Six others were wounded by live gunfire: one seriously, one moderately, and four slightly.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier who was hit by a stone suffered moderate injuries. Two other soldiers and a border policeman sustained slight injuries.

Our correspondent notes that an investigation into the incident in which a grenade was thrown at an IDF unit this morning has revealed that six local residents were wounded by shrapnel. There were no IDF casualties.

Curfew Imposed on Town Center

TA0506115094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Border police have detained dozens of rioters and stone throwers in Hebron and a curfew has been imposed on the town center. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two explosive devices were hurled at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol last night, but nobody was hurt. Disturbances broke out a short time ago in Ramallah. A soldier sustained light wounds from a stone and glass splinters when a military vehicle was stoned in the center of town. One of the soldiers opened fire to extricate the vehicle from the stone throwers. Border police forces restored order with tear gas and rubber bullets. There have so far been four people lightly wounded and they were transferred to Ramallah hospital.

The IDF this morning prevented a group of Jordan Rift Valley settlers from entering Jericho in a convoy bearing Israeli flags thereby protesting the fact that at the weekend the IDF prevented one of the settlers from passing through Jericho with an Israeli flag. Earlier, there was a clash between Israeli policemen and the demonstrators when the former tried to prevent Palestinian vehicles from traveling with PLO flags along roads in the Jordan Rift Valley.

South American Coverage of Peres Visit

WA0306180394

For South American reportage on the visit to Colombia by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, including reports on meetings between Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo and Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin, see the Colombia section of the 1 June Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

King Assesses Israeli Talks, Palestinian Ties

JN0406190494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has stressed the need for promoting general performance, caring for Jordanians, and paying attention to the internal front to build an ideal homeland. These remarks were made by His Majesty King Husayn after chairing part of the cabinet's session in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and Royal Court Chief His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. More details in the following report by our correspondent for political affairs Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] The most important events and developments in the region in addition to reviewing the most important domestic issues were the main topics of the cabinet's session, part of which was chaired by his Majesty King Husayn. His majesty stressed the need for promoting the general performance and caring for the Jordanians, who are the object of all concerns, to build an ideal homeland.

Speaking to reporters at the Prime Ministry following the cabinet session, his majesty the king commended the performance of the government of Dr. al-Majali and called for paying attention to the internal front.

[Husayn] I believe the information ministers will adequately cover the issue. The meeting was, undoubtedly, good. We thanked his excellency the prime minister and the brothers for their efforts and continuous giving. We also made a review of both the regional situation and the expected developments in the coming phase. We emphasized the need for this country to remain cohesive as one family from various origins and descents. We should enjoy awareness and vigilance and study all that took place and has thus far taken place so we will draw the conclusions required for effective action that guarantees the country's future in terms of its steadfastness, in order to serve the kinsfolk and brothers in Palestine with regard to their rights on their national soil. We discussed many things, and God willing, you will be acquainted with the details.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, how do you view the peace process and its future in light of the new developments, including the aggression against southern Lebanon and the cancellation of the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state?

[Husayn] I believe that the process is serious and continuous despite any urgent events. There is no doubt that we all were pained by what happened to sisterly Lebanon, the human losses, and the encroachment on its territory. However, the train is proceeding. We are here talking about terms that are more accurate than the issue of coordination, because it seems to us that coordination with the brothers is a desire and a hope. Practically, however, it has not been crystallized into reality, not even to a satisfactory minimum level—that is, we understand the details of all that is happening and the others understand the details of all that is taking place. It seems that the work in this direction is unilateral.

In any case, we should continue on the basis of the agenda, concentrate on the issue of land and water, and discuss all developments to tackle all items related to us with regard to the abovementioned agenda as a basis to reach the objective of peace which reassures people about their present and future situation, and which will give them all opportunities in the future. At the same time, we have great hope that the other tracks will proceed in a satisfactory way. I am fully convinced that this will happen.

With regard to the Jordanian-Palestenian coordination, we, on our part, are ready. Once again, our stand is clear. If our brothers raise with us any issue we will support them with our utmost. But, to say we are one team working together, this, regrettably, is still within the framework of wishes that would not turn into reality. Therefore, we should also pay attention to ourselves. The basis is that this country must be firm. It has a power to reinforce the opportunities of our kinsfolk and brothers to reach their rights. They are now walking on the road they have chosen—a sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in terms of the leadership. With regard to their soil and situation, the Palestinian Arab people decide with regard to the present and future situation, with regard to the soundness or unsoundness of the course. We cannot say anything in this regard or track. We wish them success and we will support them to our utmost. At the same time, we should pay attention to our situation here so that we will not become the weak or marginalized part. The results of that would be, God forbid, catastrophic on both the national and pan-Arab levels.

[Correspondent] Regarding the borders with Israel, there are signs that Israel is ready to discuss the issue. Will this be discussed by the tripartite committee?

[Husayn] This topic is on the agenda which I have noted. I believe it should be discussed. Yes.

[Correspondent] During the meeting of the tripartite committee in Washington?

[Husayn] I believe it should be done. We consider this a basic issue as well as the issue of border, territory, water. [end recording]

Jordan Said Ready To Sign Border Accord With Israel

NC0506101694 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Amman, June 5 (AFP)—Jordan is ready to sign an accord with Israel on defining their common border, a senior Jordanian official told AFP on Sunday.

Jordan "is determined to recover territory occupied by Israel and will not hesitate to sign a bilateral accord on this issue with the Hebrew state before there is a peace treaty," the official said on condition he not be named.

Israel and Jordan are due to meet in Washington on Monday to discuss the border issue which dates back to 1922 and the outlines drawn up during the British mandate over Palestine.

Jordan is claiming from Israel a strip of about 320 square kilometres (128 square miles) along their border from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Dead Sea, as well as 1.3 square kilometres (half a square mile) south of Lake Tiberias in the Jordan Valley.

Jordan has so far refused to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel before all outstanding issues have been resolved, and until there is a comprehensive settlement with other Arab countries.

The official said that any such accord on their common border "would not prejudice our commitment to a global peace" settlement, but added that the "return of our territories is the top priority."

So far Israel has evaded any mention of the border issue in bilateral talks.

But Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani told reporters Saturday that Jordan had received signs that Israel "was ready to discuss these border questions."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem confirmed that the two delegations were to meet Monday in Washington to discuss the border dispute.

Bilateral Arab-Israeli talks have been suspended since a Jewish settler killed 30 Arab worshippers in a mosque in Hebron on February 25.

'Arafat Said To Visit for Talks, Medical Checkups

JN0506091394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p 24

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y learns from well-informed sources that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected in Amman tomorrow, Monday, for talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials.

Sources say that discussions will center on effective joint coordination and the declaration by the Palestinian side that they have agreed to Jordanian proposals pertaining to the plan of action related to the Joint Economic Agreement.

The sources further say that during his stay in Amman, 'Arafat is expected to undergo medical checkups to ascertain that his health condition is stable. However, the sources say that this will depend on whether or not he will have enough time to spare and provided nothing new is added to his heavy schedule in the wake of preparations for his visiting the autonomous region next week.

Al-Majali Briefs House on State of Negotiations

JN0506210094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] In a special session with the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives in the Pictures Hall at the parliament building today, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali reviewed a number of national and foreign issues. Dr. al-Majali also spoke about where the government stood on regional developments.

House Speaker Tahir al-Masri, told journalists after the meeting that one of the topics that figured prominently at the session was the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. The prime minister, said al-Masri, underscored the importance of these ties and Jordan's keenness to maintain coordination that advances, first, the Palestinian cause and the new Palestinian situation and, second, the interests of the two countries.

The prime minister said the present level of coordination fell short of expectations and has not been as effective as we would have liked. The prime minister, added al-Masri, stressed that Jordan was committed to a role of support for the Palestinian cause, no matter what the obstacles, and free from any ambitions or any attempt to dominate.

The prime minister, according to al-Masri, had paid tribute to Jordanian-Egyptian relations. He emphasized that the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee had helped solidify these ties. Relations with Syria also have a special significance, given that the two countries' stands were similar and complementary on the negotiations and the potential for bilateral and regional cooperation.

The prime minister also said at the session that Jordan stood for a halt to fighting in brotherly Yemen and a hands-off policy. Jordan was against taking sides and for legitimacy and unity. Al- Masri further noted that the prime minister had vigorously denied 'Ali Salim al-Bid's contention that Jordan was extending assistance to the Yemeni Government in Sanaa. He regretted that such an unjust charge should have been made by al-Bid against Jordan, which had given his majesty the king a mandate to take whatever measures he deemed would advance Yemen's unity. All that Jordan did was to airlift Jordanian and other nationals from Yemen on purely humanitarian grounds to spare them the risks involved in a war situation, explained the house speaker.

The prime minister, went on al-Masri, reported to the deputies on the state of the negotiations between Jordan and Israel and the agenda of the meeting to be held in Washington tomorrow. He stressed that Jordan adheres to its declared constants. There will not be a separate deal on the Jordanian front, the prime minister was quoted as emphasizing by the house speaker.

Prime Minister Denies Sending Weapons to Sanaa

JN0506130794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has categorically denied Aden's accusation that Jordan is sending weapons to Sanaa, saying that the accusation conflicts with Jordan's support for dialogue in Yemen. Al-Majali asserted that Jordan has never thought of sending weapons to any side in Yemen and reiterated that Jordan does not support one side against the other, and that it opposes infighting and believes in dialogue to resolve the bloody crisis in that country.

Al-Majli also said that Jordan supports unity and legitimacy in Yemen, that the unity was carried out as a result of the Yemeni people's decision, and that Jordan will continue to believe in that unless the Yemeni people want otherwise.

With regard to planes, al-Majali said that Amman had sent Royal Jordanian aircraft, and C-130 transportation planes to evacuate its nationals from Yemen, as well as other European and Asian nationals on humanitarian grounds, and that these aircraft carried nothing other than passengers.

Information Minister Denies Arms Shipment to Yemen

JN0506154094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1502 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Cabinet Affairs and information minister, has denied reports that Jordan shipped weapons to Yemen. He said the current fighting there is a purely internal affair. He also said that Jordan believes in legitimacy as chosen by the Yemeni people and that when it mediated among the brothers in Yemen it did so at the clear request of all parties.

Reacting to statements by some Yemeni Socialist Party officials who alleged that Jordan shipped weapons and military equipment to Yemen on board military aircraft, Dr. al-'Anani said: Jordan sent civilian aircraft to Yemen to evacuate Jordanian expatriates home after it became impossible for them to stay there because of the fighting and the eruption of fierce battles. At the same time, Jordan also used these aircraft to evacuate many citizens, families, and children from fraternal Arab and friendly foreign communities. Jordan was the only country to fulfill such a humanitarian role.

The minister explained that because of the high insurance rate—$500,000—levied on civilian flights to fraternal Yemen, Jordan had to use and send C-130 military aircraft to rescue innocent civilians and evacuate Jordanians working in Yemen, as well as other nationals of brotherly and friendly states. He said: These aircraft were the only way to evacuate them and carry them back to the homeland. These flights were made in public and in full sight of all countries in the world, and in the presence of local, Arab, and foreign journalists.

Dr. al-'Anani said it is not unusual or new for Jordan to engage in such humanitarian actions. Jordan has done this before, during the Gulf crisis when it received and hosted on its territory more than 1 million people, he added.

The minister said he hopes the crisis in fraternal Yemen will end and the shedding of innocent blood among the brothers will stop, for the benefit and interests of the Yemeni Arab people and for the interests of the sons of the Arab nation.

Further on Denial of Shipment

JN0506201894 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani categorically denied reports that Jordan is providing Yemen with weapons and spare parts. Dr. al-'Anani was reacting to a statement in Cairo by the prime minister of South Yemen's secessionist government, Haydar Abu- Bakr al-'Attas, accusing Jordan and Iraq of providing the north with military spare parts. The information minister said Jordan views the current fighting in Yemen as an internal affair and that the accusations were baseless.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] Well, first of all, as far as Iraq is concerned, Iraq is being closely monitored especially in the field of arms. So, as far as that score is concerned, I think it's not correct, and I am sure it's not correct.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the only transportation we had to Yemen was when the internal war took place. Jordan was among the very few countries, and eventually the only country, which dared send planes, first of all civilian planes, to rescue people from the war zone and bring them back—Jordanian families and children, and then Arab nationals, and then even peoples from third countries. We did that on our own risk. The planes which went there were civilian planes. We had to pay at a certain time an insurance policy, noncommercial insurance policy, amounting to half a million dollars per trip, which is an exorbitant amount to pay. Then we replaced that by empty planes that brought people back, military planes that brought, which came back full of people and luggage. And those were witnessed by many people, they were under cameras and monitored and so on.

I really don't see where such a claim came. Maybe, it could be as a result of Jordan's position as far as believing that legitimacy and legality should prevail in Yemen because Yemen right now is a sovereign country that has developed its own institutions through a constitutional process, elections, and so on and so forth. It is true that the institutional structure was not yet completed, but we had a state that was acknowledged by the international community. Therefore, I don't think that we should mix positions of Jordan, which stem from its strong adherence to international law and to internal integrity of each sovereign state in the world, with the fact that Jordan, which was invited by both warring factions in Yemen to reconciliate between them. [sentence as heard] They came to Jordan, they asked Jordan for that role, which we did with the help of other Arab countries, now to be accused that it is really fuelling the war that is going on when we abhor bloodshed, and we don't like it.

[Correspondent Murid Hammad] Some say that this is the price that Jordan will again have to pay for standing up in favor of Arab unity and national reconciliation. Do you agree with that?

[Al-'Anani] I agree that Jordan has paid a heavy price for such positions and maybe Yemen will prove to be another example. [end recording]

Information Minister on Israeli Peace Talks

JN0406191694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Report by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab on news conference held by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, with unidentified correspondents in Amman on 4 June]

[Text] [Dhiyab] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, held a news conference today in which he elaborated on the issues and topics raised during today's cabinet meeting. He also spoke about the government's interest in improving employees' general performance and conditions.

[Begin Al-'Anani recording] His Majesty King Husayn conveyed to the Council of Ministers the message about the need to work to consolidate the domestic Jordanian front and to emphasize improving performance in all sectors, including the administrative sector. This is in order to provide citizens with the best services, encourage the private sector to play its investment role, and reduce all manifestations of red tape and administrative obstacles discouraging Jordanian, Arab, and world investment. Foreign investment must satisfy our requirements so that, God willing, Jordan will remain economically invincible. His Majesty King Husayn also continually reaffirms the basic fact that Jordanian citizens of various origins and descents are Jordanian nationals, equal in rights and duties, and that Jordanian ranks must always remain invincible and integrated. His majesty also reiterated that plurality in Jordanian society must be a source of unity and strength, rather than a source of fragmentation, God forbid. His majesty also stressed that at this particular critical stage, Jordan must basically depend on itself and its own resources, immunity, and capabilities so as to prevent any penetration, God forbid. The present stage is one requiring very delicate decisions. This is because we must always compare what is taking place with our objectives and aspirations. We do not give up our stands, but this does not mean that we will remain static and immobile if developments warrant otherwise.

In fact, among the most important things that discussions dealt with today were the current peace negotiations. We currently notice that the peace process has begun to take a new direction. Its important and strategic role in the peace process notwithstanding, Jordan cannot agree to lag much behind other tracks. At the same time, Jordan is not showing breathlessness and hastiness. Jordan does not want to find itself, God forbid, in a position forcing it to adopt positions that it does not at all accept for itself. Yet, while we will not let hastiness lead us to unacceptable stands, we must not agree that negotiations are delayed and problems solved on other tracks in a way that leaves Jordan alone, subject to pressure. Nor do we agree that we keep on soliloquizing until the Jordanian role becomes marginal in the peace process.

Therefore, regarding the peace process, Jordan will take the steps which will enable it to maintain the reins of the initiative with respect to Jordanian affairs. Among the most important issues in this regard is the tripartite Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli meeting which will begin in Washington on Monday [6 June]. The main objective of this meeting is to discuss the future of the negotiations.

As you know, Jordan signed a joint agenda with Israel on 14 September 1993, immediately after the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was signed. This was done out of Jordan's support for the Palestinian negotiating position at that time.

In fact, the agenda we obtained was good, in the full sense of the word, because it preserves both Jordan's basic rights and the comprehensive solution. The agenda also addresses all issues raised at the negotiations table. Thus, in the negotiating process, Jordan basically follows the agenda it signed at that time.

We know that Jordan has basic issues pertaining to the negotiating process. These issues are currently led by the issue of borders, or the so-called occupied Jordanian territory, and also the need to proceed toward regaining it. This is because the agenda specified the principle to which we can refer in order to regain the Jordanian territory. As you know, the terms of reference on defining this territory are the mandate agreement of 1922. Thus, there should be an agreement under which Israel will be committed to both returning the Jordanian territory and accepting the setting up of an expert committee which would demarcate these borders as they used to be according to the mandate agreement.

Moreover, Jordan must demand its rights to water. This is because, as you know, water is a Jordanian right. According to Israel, regardless of dividing the water, its size would not be sufficient for the future, so instead of discussing the rights to water let us talk about both increasing the water resources and the regional cooperation on them.

We, in Jordan, however, believe that both issues are very important, so we will not relinquish our rights to water. Hence, we should complete what the water, energy, and environment group in the bilateral negotiations began in terms of discussing the subsidiary agenda of this group, so we can take steps later to regain our full rights to water.

Now, if something takes place in Washington confirming that the Israeli side is more prepared to demarcate the Jordanian borders according to the mandate agreement, and if we find out that they are ready to seriously discuss returning water rights to Jordan, the following logical question would be posed: What will our position be on such a basic development, which Jordan has been pushing to achieve since the beginning of the peace process? A clear answer to this question is that Jordan will not stand idly by and defer the regaining of its rights to both the territory and water in return for procedures or some forms of arrangements to hold negotiations on this issue.

It is clear that we cannot demarcate the borders and specify our water shares in Washington D.C. Hence, there should be an arrangement to move the negotiating process to this region, so we can be close to the decisionmakers, and the committees can meet on site in order to define both the Jordanian territory and Jordan's water share, which we deserve within this context.

Jordan has an unshakable belief that any settlement must be inclusive. That a settlement must be inclusive is not just a demand or slogan as far as Jordan is concerned. It must translate into practical steps on the ground. We very much want to see progress on the Syrian track. Obviously, the Golan Heights are Syrian territory that must all be handed back to Syria. Any Israeli withdrawal in return for any reciprocal measures that Syria may take will be viewed by us as sufficient to direct the peace process toward the eventual return of Syria's rights in the Golan. We are also aware that Israeli officials have said that they have no designs on Lebanese territory. Here in Jordan, we are vigorously behind the demand that the Lebanese Government regain sovereignty over its territories. We stand for the Lebanese Government reestablishing sovereignty on all the country's territories.

You are aware that there have been developments on the Palestinian track, and that the Gaza-Jerich accord was signed. Despite obstacles here and there, the Palestinian side is moving forward.

Jordan is seeking to coordinate at the highest levels. His Majesty King Husayn has said that the word coordination is gradually losing its meaning. Coordination means that the Arab parties involved in the peace process should coordinate their moves before they work out any agreement with the other side. This has been our practice all along, sharing our information with brothers. However, the required level of coordination is lacking. As things stand now, we compare notes after rather than before agreements are worked out.

Jordan is concerned about Arab integration; it cannot afford to be overtaken by events and left behind, lest its hands become tied and its movement toward its objectives be hindered, not only in terms of Jordanian rights, but also in terms of Arab rights, in the sense that the peace process must be comprehensive and peace itself durable. We, therefore, do not rush into taking hasty steps. We will take steps when the time is right so Jordan's role remains clear. This is because, as you know, any peace settlement in the region excluding Jordan will be incomplete. We do not want the strategic advantages that Jordan has acquired to be squandered or used as a way to pressure Jordan when it finds itself, under the prevailing deplorable Arab state of affairs, forced to accept whatever proposals it is offered. Therefore, to solidify Jordan's internal front and to move forward from the realm of economics, lest economics, as well as the debts, God forbid, be used as a means of pressure on us, we must improve the investment climate and our administration of investment. We must band together and give hardworking people more spacious room. Workers must be allowed to play their basic role in building the Jordanian state so as to satisfy our aspirations and those of his majesty, the supreme commander. [end recording]

[Dhiyab] Replying to a question about the war raging in Yemen, and where Jordan stands on the conflict, the minister said Jordan recognizes the Yemeni legitimacy that was approved by all the Yemeni parties after it was endorsed by the official and public Yemeni institutions. Asked about pay raises for civil servants that have been the subject of much talk in the press recently, Dr. al-'Anani said the Cabinet set up a commission to study the matter. A report submitted by the commission is under review. The Cabinet will discuss the matter at later sessions, al-'Anani added.

Comments on Yemen, Visit to Iraq

JN0506101894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Report on news conference held by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, with unidentified correspondents in Amman on 4 June—italicized passages recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, held a news conference today in which he elaborated on the issues and topics raised during today's cabinet meeting. He also spoke about the government's interest to improve employees' general performance and conditions.

[Al-'Anani] *[passage omitted] Regarding the prevailing Arab conditions, many of the brothers wonder, for* *example, about current developments in the Yemeni issue. As you know, at the request of the disputing Yemeni parties, the two parties came to Jordan about seven months ago and asked Jordan to mediate among the parties concerned. When Jordan mediated in the Yemeni issue, it did not do to impose its role, but was basically in response to the requests of our brothers in Yemen. Jordan cannot but accept the Yemeni legitimacy. This is because this legitimacy was not imposed by any Yemeni party on another party, but was the result of a purely internal Yemeni process in which the leaders of the north and south agreed to unite their country. They have also taken the necessary measures for this, including the amendment of the Yemeni Constitution and the holding of free elections in Yemen. This has given legitimacy to all Yemen through its recognized leadership which passed through all the constitutional and legal stages. Therefore, Jordan recognizes the Yemeni legitimacy which was approved by all the institutions of the Yemeni people, in accordance with which the Yemeni people adopted measures which led to the creation of the united Yemeni institutions. This process was basically continuing. Jordan will continue to be with the legitimacy in Yemen until something else is decided by an Arab consensus or anything else. But, for us, we do not fight anyone, we do not stand against anyone, and we do not have any political agenda in Yemen. However, we are with the legitimacy because this is an entrenched and basic Jordanian principle. We must not open the door for casting doubts on the legitimacy of states because this will be a precedent that could lead to bad consequences.*

In the presence of his majesty the king, some ministers reviewed their various visits which you might know of. Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, reviewed his visit to Syria and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, who stressed the need for cooperation and integration with Jordan. At the same time, he emphasized his deep relationship with His Majesty King Husayn, and the need to upgrade the level of cooperation in the economic and political fields between the two countries to the highest possible level. The higher joint committee is expected to meet soon to discuss economic issues and other areas of cooperation, culture, youth, information, and education.

The interior minister also reviewed his visit to Iraq and his meeting with President Saddam Husayn, which came at the Iraqi leadership's request. In fact, the interior minister went there to discuss some issues related to the Jordanian nationals in Iraq. He found a great response from the Iraqi officials in this respect.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also reviewed his participation in the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference in Cairo, and his meetings with the officials there. The major point that was discussed was the future of the Nonaligned Movement, particularly following the changes in the balance of powers in the world which left the United States at the top of the pyramid of international power. It seems that the discussion has not led to very clear results toward which we can adopt a clear stand. Of course, this was an opportunity to meet with some Arab foreign ministers. I believe that the minister of state for foreign affairs spoke about this after his return.

We also listened to a report by the telecommunications minister, who attended the second phase of ARABSAT, and the meeting of the ARABSAT board of directors. The reason which led to the stumbling of this project, particularly the second phase of it, was that the launching of Ariane, the French missile, was not successful. It was supposed to carry a new Arab station. In this regard, we have instructions from his majesty the king to cooperate with the fraternal Arab states in the field of telecommunications, and to develop Jordan's abilities in the field of telecommunications, television transmission, and cooperation with the Arab states in this regard.

These are almost the most important points that were discussed today.

[Announcer] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani then answered correspondents' questions. Concerning the border issue and Israel's seriousness to discuss this issue in detail, he said:

[Al-'Anani] *In fact, the Israeli side has expressed its readiness to discuss this issue within the so-called working group on security, border, and territories. Therefore, a Jordanian team and an Israeli team will discuss this issue. If an agreement is reached, then it will be necessary to discuss it on the border site in the region in order to be settled, and so that demarcation and the appropriate measures can be taken.*

[Correspondent] *[Passage Indistinct].*

[Al-'Anani] *(?There will be) a tripartite committee meeting to discuss the issues related to the Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement and its effects on us, particularly in the field of trade and banks. There will also be a meeting to demarcate borders and to set a program to develop the Jordan Valley area, with all its dimensions. This is to prepare for future studies to discuss these issues and to emphasize that these issues cannot take place unless border problems are resolved. In the past, the U.S. stand was in agreement with this idea, and the Israeli stand was hesitant. Now, it seems, I say it seems, but we are not sure until we sit, negotiate, and know their reactions—but it seems that as long as they are ready to discuss, and we are always ready to discuss our rights, there might be something which makes us say that some change has occurred in the Israeli stand in this regard.*

[Announcer] Concerning the employees' pay increase, Dr. al-'Anani said:

[Al-'Anani] *The Council of Ministers is still discussing this issue with all seriousness. A ministerial committee has discussed this and approved some principles. The Council of Ministers today began discussions on it, but it has not yet completed the discussion. We hope to be able to complete discussion on this issue during the next Council of Ministers' meeting.*

[Correspondent] *[Passage indistinct]*

[Al-'Anani] *No, no, the overall picture is clear, but there are attempts to improve the draft plan. As you know, the draft plan was set by a ministerial committee, and the Council of Ministers must express its opinion about the ministerial committee's proposals. There are some ideas either by some specialized sectors, or in the overall picture.*

[Announcer] On the date set for His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington, the information minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, said:

[Al-'Anani] *His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington will take place during the first half of this month, June. His Majesty King Husayn will go to have a regular medical checkup. This is to let people know. After His Majesty King Husayn underwent surgery at the Mayo Clinic, he was supposed to have a medical checkup every six months. This is the last semiannual medical checkup. This, God willing, will confirm that His Majesty King Husayn's health is as good as usual, and then the medical checkup will be done annually. This is something normal, a routine medical checkup. His Majesty King Husayn's health is very good, and we must be happy and congratulate ourselves on this.*

His Majesty King Husayn will, of course, visit the United States, where he will meet with President Bill Clinton, Christopher, and senior U.S. officials. They will discuss the peace process, bilateral relations, developments in the region, and other issues. As you know, these issues appear to be repetitive, but every time, due to the rapid changes and developments, they gain new dimensions. Thank you very much.

Economic Alliance Said Reaction to PLO-Israel Accord

JN0406075994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Jun 94 p 10

[Report by correspondent Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Even though Jordan supports economic integration among Arab states, no concrete steps have been taken to form an economic alliance grouping the Kingdom with Syria and Lebanon, informed sources said Friday.

"Economic integration is a Jordanian requirement, but the Kingdom will not enter into economic or political groupings before preparing solid foundations for them first," said a source close to the government and the Royal court.

Agence France Press reported Thursday that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon had been discussing the formation of an economic cooperation council similar to the now defunct Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which grouped Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq. The ACC, which reportedly antagonised some Gulf states, collapsed immediately after the eruption of the Gulf crisis in 1990.

The agency quoted unidentified political sources in Jordan as saying the proposed alliance would aim at "countering the repercussions of the Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement" on the economies of the three countries.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an economic agreement with Israel in Paris in April and the deal was ill-received by Syria and Lebanon and invited the condemnation of some economic experts in Jordan.

Jordan's past experiences with regional alliances rendered it cautious when discussing the formation of such groupings, the source said. The source said the formation of the council was floated by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz who was briefed by Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Birri on discussions the latter held on the issue with Jordanian parliamentarians during his visit here last month.

But the discussion with Mr. Birri did not go beyond the expression of some Jordanian parliamentarians of their belief in the viability of economic cooperation with Lebanon, sources said.

Other informed sources said Syria had floated the issue with the Kingdom recently, but Jordan reiterated its position that solid groundwork had to be carried out before translating such ideas into reality.

"How could you have economic integration with Syria which does not have an ambassador in Jordan yet and where Jordanian television transmission is jammed?" the source said.

"Syria still has strong ties with allies who would not support such a project," said the source in reference to Gulf states which worked against the Arab Cooperation Council.

"But since the intention is there, technical committees could start working to discuss practical steps for realising the grouping," said the source, pointing out that Jordan believes in joint Arab action not only on the economic arena but also on the security and political ones.

The source said that economic integration with Syria and Lebanon would be governed by regional and international politics and Jordan is aware of the limit to which Arab-Arab relations could go.

Jordan and Syria took large steps towards economic integration in the late 1970s but the Kingdom was then punished by neighbouring countries which stopped their aid to the Kingdom in anger, the source said.

"Neither Jordan nor Syria believe in taking short cuts" in implementing projects of such magnitude, added the source.

The joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee will hold talks on economic cooperation in Amman on Monday. In addition to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will attend the meeting in what was seen as an indication of the political significance that the talks would have.

Sources said it is possible that ways of dealing with the economic impact of the PLO-Israel deal on the two countries could be discussed during the meeting, but they will not amount to discussing the formation of an economic alliance.

Minister Denies Reaction

JN0406092794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Jun 94 p 29

[Report by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Rima Khalaf has said that Jordan's rapprochement and cooperation with all Arab countries does not mean that it wants to confront or work against any party, especially the Palestinian economy.

She said: We will cooperate with the Palestinian economy and always work for its growth and development, based on Jordan's historical commitment to the Palestine question. I do not think that any Jordanian citizen or official is doing anything other than this.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y commenting on reports about a desire to establish economic integration between Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to confront the results of the economic agreement between Israel and the PLO on the economies of the three countries, Dr. Khalaf said: We are aware that there are restrictions on the Palestinian economy, and we hope that these restrictions will be removed so that this economy can become close and attached to the economies of Arab countries, and disengage its links with the Israeli economy.

Dr. Khalaf said Jordan's economic cooperation with all Arab countries is based on Jordan's historical pan-Arab concept, and this is not restricted to Syria and Lebanon but includes all Arab countries in order to realize Arab economic integration.

Dr. Khalaf said Jordan is following a policy of entrenching economic cooperation with all Arab countries, including the Palestinian National Authority. She added that, according to Jordan's concept, this cooperation will surely be beneficial and will assist economic and social development in all Arab countries.

Dr. Khalaf said Jordan wants to entrench economic cooperation with all Arab countries through joint committees, adding that the Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee held a meeting in Amman, and will hold another meeting soon in Amman at the level of prime ministers. Before that, the Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee held meetings at the level of prime ministers.

She added that Jordan coordinates in all fields with Arab brothers in a bid to build an Arab economy that is able to survive and face the economic blocs set up in the world.

Buwayz Denies Secret Negotiations With Israel

PM0306113294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Faris Buwayz' Statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Beirut Denies Existence of Secret Negotiations With Tel Aviv, Stresses No Plan To Evacuate Palestinians"]

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has denied that there are any secret negotiations between Lebanon and Israel like those held between the Palestinians and the Israelis in Oslo. He said that the negotiations held between us are those conducted in the framework of the declared peace negotiations with the other Arab delegations.

Answering a question put to him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during his visit to Jordan, he said: We have not received any Israeli plans regarding withdrawal from southern Lebanon, neither through U.S. diplomacy nor any other quarters.

He added that the Lebanese position has always been clear since the Madrid conference, as we refused to sit with the Israelis or to discuss any partial solution. Nor did we accept anything except full withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

He stressed that Israel is trying, by means of unclear plans, to dissolve Resolution 425, which stipulates full withdrawal from Lebanese territory. We are calling for the implementation of all the UN resolutions, including Resolution 425 concerning Lebanon. Buwayz also stressed the need to continue and intensify coordination among the Arab parties concerned with the peace negotiations, as he regards it as support for the positions of the delegations participating in the peace negotiations.

On the Palestinian self-rule agreement Buwayz said: What the Palestinians brothers have arrived at with the Israelis regarding "Gaza-Jericho" is an achievement—which reflects positively on the other negotiation tracks and opens the door to progress on the other tracks.

Buwayz warned of Israel's intentions in trying to divide solutions and single out the Arab parties individually in order to impose Israel's will and ambitions on the Arab states. It is always trying—through trial balloons—to agree a solution with this or that party regarding such and such. All these things are trial balloons for all the Arab tracks.

Buwayz denied that his country has any plan to evacuate 400,000 Palestinians who have been living in Lebanon for several years and who hold Lebanese travel documents. He said: All the rumors in this connection are untrue, and we are not at all thinking of evacuating our Palestinian brothers. But we support their right to return to their land and recover their legitimate rights. [passage omitted]

Says No Withdrawal From Peace Talks

NC0606071394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Lebanon has affirmed it will not withdraw from the peace negotiations regardless of Israeli pressures. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has told the newspaper AL-SAFIR that the Madrid Conference formula is second to none, in the absence of any alternative formula. But the problems do not rest with the formula; rather they rest with Israel's dealing with this formula, the foreign minister added.

Fariz Buwayz said: Despite its acceptance in theory or principle of this formula since it was initiated in Madrid, Israel has been ceaselessly trying to torpedo this formula. The foreign minister maintained that since the start Israel has been trying to isolate and separate out parties. It continues this policy even now and is trying to torpedo the Madrid Conference mechanism.

In his statement to AL-SAFIR, the foreign minister said that a withdrawal from the negotiations would trigger various repercussions. Therefore, it would not be in Lebanon's interest to withdraw from the negotiations. This would make Lebanon appear before the world public as a rejector of peace, particularly since Israel can exploit this issue in the media, Buwayz added.

The foreign minister said: We must continue the negotiations because there is no other mechanism that is supported and sponsored internationally. We also must not throw in our cards before the end of the negotiations.

Minister Buwayz pointed out that he had informed the Americans of Lebanon's commitment to continuing its resistance as long as there are insufficient assurances of the liberation of its land. Buwayz affirmed that the aggression against Ba'labakk was a new Israeli attempt to strike at Lebanese-Syrian cohesion.

The foreign minister criticized the Gaza-Jericho agreement, adding that Lebanon's ties with the Palestinian issue are clear. But as for Lebanon's relations with the Palestinian leadership, I believe that this leadership must propose a final concept and strategy so that we can finally define our relations with them. But defining a relationship to a structure based on transient principles is absolutely impossible, the foreign minister concluded.

Foreign Minister Calls Attack 'Declaration of War'

JN0306200494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1743 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] As a matter of fact, we think the Security Council is now facing a a basic and vital test. We believe that what happened yesterday is a declaration of war, and not only a circumstantial, temporary, or objective aggression. What happened was a series of air raids by Israeli aircraft and helicopters, using all methods, including incendiary bombs, and the pursuit of civilians who escaped the region, by military helicopters. This action is absolutely unjustified and can only be within a process of war launched by Israel against Lebanon.

We think the United Nations, which has recently not responded to several attacks that took place, is now facing a test. It either proves its credibility and its raison d'etre as a frame of reference for the nations that are attacked, or it proves once again that it is incapable of adopting positions that establish justice and right in this world. Therefore, Lebanon has filed a complaint with the Security Council asking for an immediate session to discuss the second Israeli attack within less than 10 days. I believe the climate that surrounds this issue—and updating public opinion in Lebanon on this issue —are part of the test of the Security Council's credibility and seriousness.

[Badawi] Mr. Minister Buwayz, in case the Security Council does not immediately respond to Lebanon's request, what are the options and channels open to you?

[Buwayz] I think I have already given the answer. We are facing exposed and unmistakable aggression of clear magnitude. This aggression martyred around 50 people and left more than 60 people wounded without any justification. We think that if the Security Council does not act, then we have already provided the answer to this.

[Badawi] In concrete terms, what are you going to ask the Security Council to do to deter Israel from carrying out other operations?

[Buwayz] First of all, a clear and unequivocal resolution by the Security Council to condemn the Israeli action. Second, we demand the implementation of the resolution by adopting all measures to implement Resolution 425. For, it is not acceptable to pile up resolutions in Security Council files and offices unless these resolutions have the power of implementation. We absolutely cannot understand how the Security Council acted and found all the capabilities regarding some of the issues worldwide, which especially seek to tame some Arab countries, but when these resolutions are meant against Israel, the Security Council is unable to do anything.

[Badawi] Mr. Minister, my final question: What is your comment on the reports or analyses that these repeated Israeli operations against Lebanon are linked with the negotiating tracks, particularly with Syria, and that these operations are a kind of a message from Israel to Damascus?

[Buwayz] Of course, I do not want to talk about the messages addressed by Israel, and to whom. There are messages addressed to the Israeli Army perhaps to boost its morale; there are messages addressed to Lebanon and Syria, etc. However, what is clear and certain is that Israel is trying to pressure Lebanon and Syria by what happened yesterday and is trying to eliminate the negotiating cards of Syria and Lebanon to embarrass them.

[Badawi] Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Defense Minister Condemns Israeli Raids

JN0306193094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from the "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Dallul] The situation in Lebanon is particularly solid. The unity of the Lebanese has precedence over all other issues. All concerned are alive to their responsibilities, because the enemy is bent on splitting Lebanon, a goal we are anxious to foil. The martyrs who fell in this treacherous raid are all Lebanon's martyrs. Today all the Lebanese are in mourning to illustrate the condemnation by all sectors of the Lebanese people of this barbaric massacre, the likes of which was not perpetrated even in the Nazi days. We are solidly united to counter Israel's attempts that seem bent on treacherously striking our people and the reconciliation and healing process in Lebanon.

[Badawi] Mr. Minister, we hear about Israeli troops concentrations; we also hear the Israeli Prime Minister issue threats. What kind of counter strategy is the Lebanese Government adopting?

[Dallul] We are resolved to deploy all means at our disposal. We are a people that are being victimized. Israel has committed countless acts of aggression against us. Israel occupies a part of our territory. Where is the international community? Why does the international community act on minor issues, but does nothing to curb Israel's aggression? Israel has consistently enjoyed a privileged status at the United Nations and the UN Security Council. The armed forces of the West were sent to force Iraq into complying with a Security Council resolution. But the international community and the United Nations never apply pressure on Israel to make it abide by Security Council resolutions. We are witnessing the bizarre situation of Israel going too far in striking a defenseless people below the belt, and the international community and the United Nations are turning a blind eye to these acts of aggression.

The Lebanese people will not stand for their sovereignty, dignity, and independence being trampled underfoot. We will confront all aggressions no matter what the cost. All of us will turn into a resistance. Israel will not manage to realize its goals. It is aware that any attempt on its part to extend the territory under its occupation will be very costly. We are all mobilized to face all eventualities that may arise from Yitzhaq Rabin's and other Israeli leaders' threats.

[Badawi] Minister Dallul, in the aftermath of the abduction of al-Dirani a few days ago, and then yesterday's raid and the international silence over these acts committed by Israel, is it possible to say the Lebanese resistance against Israeli occupation forces has lost its international cover?

[Dallul] The resistance has no need for such a cover. The resistance is doing a patriotic job; it is resisting occupation.

[Badawi] How, then, do you explain the American silence since al-Dirani's abduction?

[Dallul] I don't know; this is a question for the United States to answer. However, what the international community must understand is that leaving Israel's recklessness unchallenged serves no one's interests. Israel is not targeting the Lebanese resistance; it is directing its fire at an innocent, defenseless, unarmed people. It is torching agricultural fields and implements and detonating the homes of the elderly and children. Israel is not facing resistance; it is targeting the Lebanese people; it is targeting all of Lebanon. Formerly, Israel worked through agents on Lebanese territory. But since the Lebanese security agencies uncovered these cells and their members were put behind bars, Israel has begun to perpetrate these massacres, having lost the benefit of the services of its agents. Or maybe it no longer has a sufficient number of agents to carry out such acts of terror.

[Badawi] Don't you read in these acts that have been going on for days a message to the Lebanese Government that it must disarm Hizballah, as a prelude to a security agreement with Lebanon within the context of the peace negotiations?

[Dallul] We will not put the cart before the horse. We work according to the political logic of things. We have a force of occupation in our country. This occupation must be removed. Israel's withdrawal comes before anything else. We have stated that in the event of Israel's pullout not a single operation will be allowed to originate in Lebanese territory. We have also stated that the only weapons that will be deployed in the border areas will be those of the legitimate Lebanese government.

[Badawi] Following Israel's raid yesterday, northern Israel was hit by Katyusha rockets, despite a kind of year-long truce. Does that mean that the tacit agreement is now finished?

[Dallul] The Israeli arm has reached as far as the center and fringes of the al-Biqa'. Israel's shells hit 12- and 14-year olds, and they abducted a Lebanese citizen. What kind of truce are you talking about?

[Badawi] We may assume, then, further escalation, as happened last year?

[Dallul] We expect everything. As long as Israel takes our people and security and homeland for granted, why should we stand by with our hands tied? If we did, we would be lax in the discharge of our duties. We are not such people.

[Badawi] Thanks to his excellency, Minister Muhsin Dallul.

Information Minister Calls For UN Resolution

NC0606073994 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Michel Samahah in Beirut by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can you brief us on the current situation in southern Lebanon?

[Samahah] Tension currently prevails in southern Lebanon. At the beginning of this interview, I want to remind everyone of the facts of the situation, which are being ignored by Israeli and world media. Southern Lebanon is Lebanese territory that is occupied by Israel. The Israelis have occupied this Lebanese territory just as they have occupied other Arab territory in the Golan, Jordan, and Palestine. Consequently, Lebanon is a constant victim of aggression in the south and the western al-Biqa'. The continuation of attacks deep inside Lebanese territory, as happened recently in the Ba'labakk area, and the daily bombardment of Lebanese villages are a continuing dual aggression. On one hand, there is occupation; and on the other is the aggression against peaceful Lebanese citizens inside the liberated areas adjacent to southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa'. There is tension now, following the recent Israeli military buildup on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You have clearly explained the situation in southern Lebanon and the recent Israeli military buildup on the border. What, in your view, is the reason for Israel's escalation of its aggression against Lebanese territory at this particular time?

[Samahah] Israel is facing a dilemma in the negotiations. It has reached the stage of returning their rights to the Arab owners, whether in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa, the Golan, in the occupied Palestinian territory, or in Jordan. Consequently, it is facing the bitter fact that it must give back these territories under the pressure of world public opinion and of the U.S. and Russian cosponsors of the talks. This poses a predicament for the Israeli Government in dealing with world public opinion and the cosponsors of the Madrid peace conference. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Regarding Lebanese activity on the international level and through the UN Security Council, can we expect the Security Council to issue a resolution on the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon?

[Samahah] I hope the Security Council will continue to serve the security of the whole UN Organization. This organization and its Security Council have a duty to protect the rights of states and peoples within the framework of existing international laws. We hope that in the next few days or in the next phase we will not again see a double standard regarding attacks by one state on another. The Lebanese Government is holding contacts with the Security Council members to encourage a resolution condemning this aggression and demanding that Israel implement Resolution 425, which is the basis on which Lebanon has joined the comprehensive and just peace talks. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah: Resistance Against Israelis To Continue

NC0306115794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Excerpt] After taking part in the funeral of the martyrs of the Israeli raid at Rawdat al-Shahidayn Mosque at 1100 today, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah stressed that the confrontation with the enemy will continue until the land is liberated. He called for withdrawing from negotiations with the enemy and for not relying on the UN Security Council. He called for making the resistance a general national plan. He said that the resistance is the rock on which the occupation will founder and the homeland will be unified. He declared that the resistance has been born anew with the fall of the martyrs yesterday. He stressed that any peace given to the killers of prophets and people and the usurpers of land and sanctities is a disgrace no matter what the justifications and circumstances. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Deputy Vows Continued Resistance

JN0306202094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1748 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with 'Ali 'Ammar of the "Bloc for Allegiance to the Resistance" in the Chamber of Deputies, by Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Ammar] First, I would like to stress that the recent Israeli aggression is not the first and will not be the last. Since its establishment, Israel has been driven by a spirit of aggression and tyranny. Therefore, we are not amazed by any act produced by this deep-rooted Israeli aggressive spirit. All that we want to affirm to the international, regional, and local public opinion is that resistance in Lebanon will remain. It will not be discouraged by those blows, irrespective of how strong they are in terms of the disasters and the pain that they leave.

This resistance is the product of a free national, popular will representing all Lebanese and all the free people in the world. In this regard, we would like to stress that the more blows they deal to the Lebanese and the resistance, the stronger and more determined this resistance becomes to continue its jihad and its approach, in order to enable our individual and land to attain freedom and independence, which are the token of our existence, especially at this critical stage. However, in view of this sick reality, the double standards of the U.S. Administration, and of the West in general and their biased view toward matters and issues that are related to peoples' freedom, pain us and incline us to hold those administrations politically and otherwise fully responsible for Israel's aggression. Israel would not have dared to defy all international resolutions, human rights, people's freedom, countries' sovereignty, and peoples' independence had it not been this U.S.-Western cover which provides it with all the elements of strength, in terms of money, weapons, and policy as well.

As for our reaction, our natural reaction is continued resistance until all the holy land and our individuals are liberated from all the effects resulting from the marriage between U.S.-Western and Israeli interests on the basis of the spirit of colonialism and aggression.

[Badawi] Haj 'Ali 'Ammar, first there was the operation that targeted and resulted in the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani. A few later, attacks continued until they culminated in the Israeli raid against one of your positions in the al-Biqa' area, leaving dozens of victims. Do you not view these repeated Israeli attacks as a preparation for a certain objective that Israel has for some time been seeking to achieve, namely, liquidating Lebanese resistance and putting pressure on the Syrian-Lebanese negotiator by striking at Hizballah, Hizballah leaders, and the resistance?

['Ammar] Your question is politically multifaceted. I would like to clearly and frankly answer all the points included in your question. First, regarding the liquidation of the resistance, I would like to stress a point which is known well by Israel and the U.S. Administration: The resistance in Lebanon is not an armed organization or a specific group of Lebanese taking care of it.

Resistance in Lebanon has become part of every child, woman, and old person. It has dug its roots deep into the Lebanese people and the Lebanese territory, beginning with those in their mothers' wombs, and ending with those elite struggling in a world that has lost its freedom, after freedom has been denied all factors of support and strength as a result of the arrogant Western-Israeli plotting against the region. This resistance is not easy to liquidate. This is despite the fact that we do not deny that there is a disparity between the strength of the resistance and that of the U.S. war machine that Israel is using to kill our people, children, and women, and to dominate our territory. However, the weapon of the resistance is in its being in the heart of those broad masses who took to the streets today to bury their martyrs and make their message quite clear. The gathering has been a true referendum as to the extent of support for the resistance.

['Ammar] Concerning the liquidation of the resistance, as we said the resistance is not an armed group with a limited base to be liquidated in this way. The real liquidation of the resistance can be effected by wiping out all levels of Lebanese society and annihilating the revolutionary and the ideological spirit which these people have been imbibing throughout history.

As for the issue of the negotiations, the second issue I would like to talk about, you are aware that since the beginning of the negotiating process, from Madrid until now, we have never seen any benefit coming from these negotiations at all, because we perfectly believe that in light of the colonialist U.S. single-handed dealing with the region and in light of the aggressive spirit represented by Israel, which flouts all values, norms, and all the international, cultural, and humanitarian conventions, it is impossible to sit with this enemy at the negotiating table in any form whatsoever. If by these strikes Israel wants to influence the Lebanese and Syrian negotiators, and the Arab negotiators in general, we have said from the beginning that we have nothing to do with these negotiations and their results. I do not believe this situation will end in capitulation to Israeli demands, whether on the diplomatic level of negotiations or on the level of jihad, which we believe in and which we insist on continuing until the liberation of all the sacred soil.

Therefore, I would like to say—and let public opinion be well aware of this—that the resistance is not a link in political investment or blackmail, neither on the negotiating table or away from it. This is because the resistance is the choice of people who want to be free and independent.

[Badawi] On the practical side, within his warnings and threats, Yitzhaq Rabin asked the United States to intercede with Syria so Damascus would pressure you to stop your shelling of northern Israel. How true is this information? Have you received anything, any indications, any demands or requests from the Lebanese or Syrian authorities to stop the resumption of missile attacks on northern Israel?

['Ammar] First of all, our relations with sisterly Syria are strategic relations which cannot be affected by a casual event, be it an Israeli attack or anything else. We are aware that this recent spirit of aggression and the recent attacks were aimed at confusing the internal situation in Lebanon and disturbing the ties with fraternal Syria. We harbor appreciation and respect for Syria and its leader al-Asad for his sponsoring the resistance and for his defense of it and his protection throughout the recent history we have passed through. As for us being asked, we cannot allow anybody to demand anything from us, especially if the demand is related to our freedom, independence, self-respect, and our protection of our sanctities. We and al-Asad's Syria are on the same frontline against this Israeli aggression and domination and will not allow the Israeli-U.S. terms to pass even by one iota at the expense of our people.

[Badawi] Therefore, the confrontation is there, the Israeli threats exists. Will you continue to shell the Israeli territory in case the Israeli Army attacks continue? You are, of course, aware that this will again lead to justifying an Israeli invasion of Lebanese territory, as happened last year?

['Ammar] Since the beginning of the resistance against the unjust Israeli occupation, we have adopted a sacred slogan, namely, kill us, because this will make our people more and more aware. We as a people have had a spiritual upbringing that rejects oppression, iniquity, occupation, and domination in any form whatsoever. We are free to use all the means available to us to defend our freedom, dignity, and independence. We will not spare any method to hurt this enemy, give it pain, and expel it form our land, and to remove all the effects of the international and regional imbalance on the military, political, and material levels. We do not care what the Israelis think. Our main concern is to defend freedom with all means available to us. Yes, the battle is open. Let them wipe us out if they want. If we can wipe them out, we will not hesitate to do so.

Israeli Tank, Artillery Reinforcements Reported

NC0306171794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] A state of top alert prevails among the Israeli occupation forces and their puppet militia, on one side, and the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese resistance groups, on the other.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY has learned that the UN Interim Force in Lebanon has placed the personnel manning its checkpoints on alert. It also beefed up the checkpoints with additional troops.

The occupation forces have mobilized additional troops inside the occupied border strip. Convoys of tanks, military vehicles, and troop carriers have been deployed on the hills overlooking the liberated areas near the international border.

According to security sources, the Israeli occupation forces have deployed long-range mobile artillery on the Muhaybib and al-'Abbad hills, and Jabal Humayd.

AFP reported today that large numbers of Israeli tanks, armored vehicles, artillery pieces, and troops carriers were deployed on the Lebanese-Israeli international border but did not cross.

Meanwhile, contrary to some media's claims, no flood of refugees has been reported from the areas under attack despite the atmosphere of tension there.

Resistance Claims High Casualties in Clash With IDF

NC0306192494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that one of its groups spotted a Zionist patrol on the Bi'r Kallab-al-Rayhan road. It subsequently clashed with the patrol for over 30 minutes, using machine guns and rockets. A large number of enemy personnel were killed and wounded. Three Islamic Resistance fighters were martyred.

IDF, SLA Respond to 'Coordinated' Attack

TA0306201294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] A short while ago, terrorists launched a coordinated attack on SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in the Tallusah area in the central sector of south Lebanon's security zone.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA are responding with artillery fire.

Two Attacks on SLA's al-Qantarah Post Reported

NC0406080594 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] At 0600 today, the South Lebanese Army's [SLA] al-Qantarah position came under bursts of 12.7-mm machine-gun fire from terrorist positions in Qabrikha. The al-Qantarah post also came under automatic weapons and rocket fire at 2215 yesterday. In both cases, there were no casualties among the SLA soldiers, who replied with tank guns and artillery fire.

Kafr Falus Commander Killed

NC0406085894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] A resistance group detonated an explosive device on the Sifray-Rum road at 0900 today, destroying a vehicle and killing the Kafr Falus post commander on the spot.

The Islamic Resistance has called for participation in the funerals of Martyrs Nasrallah 'Abd-al-Hasan Zahir and Ayman Hamzi Ba'labakki, who fell in a clash with the occupation forces on the Bi'r Kallab-al-Rayhan road.

At dawn today the occupation forces shelled Qabrikha with tank guns, causing damage to houses and crops. The shelling extended to Wadi al-Saluqi.

In retaliation for the enemy's continuing attacks, a Resistance group at dawn today attacked the agents' [South Lebanese Army] positions in Tallusah and al-Qantarah, in the central sector of the occupied border strip. A clash ensued with the guards of the two positions, involving the use of rockets and automatic weapons. No reports about the results of the two operations have been received.

3 Islamic Resistance Men Killed

NC0406164394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Guarded calm and tension prevail in the southern villages adjacent to the contact lines with the enemy positions inside the occupied border strip after continuing acts of aggression. The Israeli occupation forces in Tallat Sujud bombarded the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills at 1600 today. The sporadic bombardment reached Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Mlikh. The Israeli forces raked al-Luwayzah with heavy machine-gun fire for 30 minutes.

The Israeli forces in al-Qantarah pounded Qabrikha with about 20 tank rounds at 0600 today, causing damage to property. They also pounded the valleys and hills surrounding Qabrikha. They shelled the same area last night. At dawn today, the Israeli forces raked the Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah with heavy machine guns and illuminated the area with flares. Israeli helicopters staged several sorties over al-Shaqif castle, Kafr Tibnit, 'Ali al-Tahir, and al-Burj. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance issued a statement saying that three members were martyred in an encounter between its groups and the Israeli occupation forces in the Bi'r Kallab-Sujud area last night. The funeral of the three martyrs took place this afternoon. [passage omitted]

An Israeli gunboat this afternoon intercepted a Lebanese commercial ship coming from Germany off Tyre and subjected it to a search that lasted for several hours.

Israelis Reinforce Border With Tanks, Artillery

NC0506114294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] A state of extreme caution prevails in various areas in the south and western al-Biqa'. The occupation forces last night machine-gunned the Habbush valley and al-Wadi al-Akhdar from their position in al-Suwayda'. They directed sniper fire at the Habbush road.

Israeli helicopters flew over al-Tayyibah and al-Qantarah at 2315 yesterday. Helicopters also flew over the villages of the western sector and the plain south of Tyre after midnight last night, dropping flares over these areas.

Enemy aircraft were seen over Tyre at 1200 today.

Security sources in southern Lebanon have reported that the occupation forces brought into the occupied border strip tanks, armored personnel carriers, and long-range artillery and deployed them on the hills overlooking the areas adjacent to the occupied part of the south.

Further Reinforcements Reported

NC0606053194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] According to reports from the south this morning, a state of caution continues to prevail in the liberated areas adjacent to the occupied border strip. This strip, meanwhile, has been the scene of Israeli military activities and reinforcements.

Al-Shar' Comments on Israeli Attacks, Peace Process

NC0306132294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' affirmed today that Israel's latest aggression against south Lebanon yesterday is clear evidence that Israel does not desire peace and places obstacles to the peace efforts to cause tension in the region.

In press statements made here today, he said the lack of progress in the peace process is being blamed on Israel, which does not want to withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967.

He said that the Arab parties are committed to the peace process and the UN Security Council resolutions.

Answering a question on the effect of the Israeli stance on achieving progress on the Syrian track, he said that although Israel does not want peace, the United States will not abandon the peace process.

He said the Lebanese have the right to defend themselves against the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon to implement international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions.

On the Syrian presence in Lebanon, he said this presence is aimed at helping the Lebanese people in reconstruction efforts.

Commenting on the situation in Yemen, the Syrian foreign minister said his country is currently holding intense contacts to stop the ongoing fighting in Yemen and preserve Yemen's unity.

Says Israel Pushing Region Toward War

JN0306192194 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said Israel's aggression yesterday against Lebanese cities and villages, which claimed the lives of more than 45 martyrs and left more than 80 wounded, is an attempt to shift from the climate of peace to a climate of war and liquidation, in a bid to evade a commitment to UN resolutions, international legitimacy, and international law.

Addressing the closing session of the 11th ministerial conference of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] today, al-Shar' said the NAM countries are eager to foster the success of international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions, international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace principle.

The foreign minister said the Israeli attacks and Israel's preoccupation with attacking Arab parties involved in the peace process is clear evidence of its aggressive intentions to kill the available opportunity to achieve peace.

Al-Shar' asked the conference to demonstrate solidarity with the Lebanese people and government and the Lebanese people's right to self-defense by using all available means—a right guaranteed by the UN Charter.

The foreign minister wondered if some people think this Israeli aggression is directed against a certain party or country or a neighboring country in order to embarrass a particular country. Al- Shar' said this aggression is directed against the international community as a whole, and particularly against the cosponsors of the peace process, the United States and Russia, more than it is directed against Lebanon, Syria, or the NAM.

The foreign minister called on the NAM to raise its voice and issue a decision condemning the criminal aggression carried out by Israel yesterday so Israel understands that it cannot fool the world by its claims that it is working for peace at a time when it is pushing the region to the brink of war.

Al-Shar' concluded that he was confident that the conference will reassert its solidarity with the Lebanese people, calling for issuing a decision that strongly condemns Israel's actions. He said the ministerial conference should ask the Security Council and the two sponsors of the peace process in particular to work to stop the Israeli aggression and save the peace process.

Comments on Status of Peace Talks

PM0306112894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p 4

[Sawsan Abu-Husayn report: "Al-Shar' Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Will Not Resume Negotiations Before Full Withdrawal Is Agreed To"]

[Text] Cairo—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that his country will not resume its negotiations with Israel before receiving its final reply vis-a-vis the full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said: "Then we would be able to discuss any Israeli proposal."

On his country's acceptance of a phased Israeli withdrawal within a reasonable period, the Syrian foreign minister said that his country "is not at present looking for a phased withdrawal or its duration. We are awaiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, especially as he has promised to achieve positive results during his upcoming tour."

Al-Shar' said: "Israel still has not announced its willingness to withdraw fully from the Golan, while we accept a phased Israeli withdrawal, but the question is: Is it all the Golan or are there other areas which Israel believes subject to the security clauses?"

On Arab coordination al-Shar' said: "We are committed to it. We made contacts with Jordan before the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, visited Damascus. And Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his prime minister held a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. We also coordinate with Egypt from time to time by telephone or through frequent meetings. All this falls within the framework of assessing the situation and the extent of Israel's seriousness in entering into a comprehensive, full, and nondeficient peace with the Arab states."

Al-Shar' denied any plan to meet with Faruq Qaddumi in Syria within days in the framework of Palestinian-Syrian coordination.

On Syria's mediation role between Egypt and Iran he said: "Neither party has entrusted us with that matter. As for our relations with Iran, they are extremely good and proceeding on parallel lines vis-a-vis the important issues in the region."

Sources: Lebanese Resistance Has Right To Defense

JN0306184294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Report by Sana' al-Imam from Damascus]

[Text] Damascus today reiterated the Lebanese resistance's right to defend its territory. Informed Syrian sources reasserted to Radio Monte Carlo the Lebanese resistance's right—in all its forms—to defend its territory inside the occupied strip, pointing out that no one can stop the resistance as long as its cause remains, namely, the Israeli occupation.

The Syrian sources said Israel is trying to exploit the presence of the resistance to win international sympathy toward its security, whereas Lebanese security is being violated as a result of Israel's repeated attacks that target Lebanese territory.

Syrian political sources accused Israel of trying to foil U.S. efforts in the peace process, now that the U.S. sponsor better understands the Syrian position following the Geneva summit.

The sources told Radio Monte Carlo that Israel is even trying to cast doubt on the optimism recently spread by the United States. The political sources demanded that the U.S. sponsor play a more effective role in influencing Israel's decisions.

AL-BA'TH's editorial yesterday said that the role of the mailman played by Christopher in his tour and contacts in the capitals of the region will not do the peace process any good. The official newspaper said it is unacceptable that the role of the mailman should continue to govern the mission of U.S. envoys, led by the chief of U.S. diplomacy.

AL-BA'TH said Syria has remained committed to the peace process, but it rejects dictating conditions and does not accept blackmail and offering rewards for the aggressor.

Press Views Israel's 'Premeditated' Aggressions

JN0406074694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes on Israel's premeditated intentions, aggressions, and piracy against Lebanon. It says that the objectives of these actions are obvious, and will only bolster Lebanon's national unity and its rejection of any concessions regarding the resistance or the peace process.

In a comment today, the paper writes on Israel's hostile intentions and actions. It says: All analysts, particularly the international analysts, agree that Israel's aggressions, particularly against the Arab sides participating in the peace process, which adhere to that process, clearly prove that Israel has premeditated intentions to destroy the available opportunity to achieve peace.

The newspaper TISHRIN writes on the massacre Israel has perpetrated in the city of Ba'labakk. It stresses that this massacre dealt a great blow to the peace process, and that its timing makes it obvious that it was a stab in the back of the United States' efforts to save the peace process from the stalemate caused by the Israeli rejection of the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN says: By escalating its aggressive and brutal acts, and declaring a continuous war against Lebanon, Israel is trying to direct its missiles, guns, and bombers to assassinate the peace process this time, after it has failed to derail this process from the set objectives confirmed in documents and pledges.

TISHRIN stresses: There is no doubt that the abortion of the peace process by escalating the situation, launching devastating Israeli wars, kidnapping resistance men, and killing innocent people, necessitate that the international community link its words with deeds, pressuring Israel to stop this aggressive, brutal policy, and to respond to the pillars of a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN notes: In light of the Israeli attempts and the Israeli occupation forces' brutal actions to torpedo the peace process, the United States, which stressed the need to continue its efforts, and said that its role has not been exhausted, must now, before anyone else, hasten to save this process from the Israeli shelling and to prevent its destruction. This can only be achieved by deterring the Israeli Government and curbing its provocative practices.

Commentary: Israeli Attacks Threaten U.S. Credibility

JN0406141094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel was not content with the savage massacre it committed against the Lebanese citizens in the western al-Biqa'. It has escalated its attacks on southern Lebanese villages and townships, and massed additional military forces and heavy weapons. Israeli officials have made a series of threats to commit more acts of aggression.

Even the most naive of observers can see that beyond what Israel gained from the Gaza-Jericho agreement—direct Israeli hegemony and real Israeli trusteeship over the Palestinian people's resources—Israel wants to deal a final blow to both the U.S. peace initiative and the peace process based on the Madrid conference.

As usual, Israel chose Lebanon, in its capacity as the weakest link in the Arab body, to remove every vestige of the atmosphere of peace from the region, replacing it with an atmosphere of war. Only a few days ago, the Israeli prime minister clearly announced that he sees no benefit in a new tour of good offices in the Middle East by the U.S. secretary of state to promote the peace process on the Syrian track, because Israel does not intend to withdraw from the Golan, while Syria links peace to this withdrawal.

In fact, Rabin's statement is a flagrant call on the United States to forget its peace initiative and relinquish its commitments to achieving a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict, based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

This is not the first serious Israeli attempt to undermine the peace process. At a similar time last year, Israel sent large forces into occupied southern Lebanon and used various kinds of weapons to systematically destroy hundreds of Lebanese villages. At that time, Yitzhaq Rabin announced he wanted to create a new refugee problem in the region. Indeed, hundreds of thousands of Lebanese civilians were evicted. If the United States, through Secretary Christopher, had not quickly salvaged its regional initiative, and if Lebanon and Syria had not responded to the U.S. endeavors, the peace process would have been a memory from the past.

Now, Rabin is doing it again. He has publicly announced he will not withdraw from the Golan or southern Lebanon and that he will commit large-scale acts of aggression on the pretext of protecting Israel's security. Meanwhile, the Lebanese people are the ones who are being buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings in savage Zionist raids.

Peace can be achieved only by deeds. Israel's deeds, however, flagrantly conflict with the simplest fundamentals and principles of peace. The substance of both the U.S. initiative and the Security Council resolutions is to exchange land for peace. Israel, however, refuses to return the land.

If the U.S. initiative aims to spread a climate of detente and calm in the region that will help parties engage in genuine peace talks, then Israel is beating the drums of war and translating its words into action, using its aircraft to attack defenseless Lebanese areas, and ceaselessly shelling, from land and sea, the villages and towns of southern Lebanon.

Where is Israel today after the Washington initiative? Where is Israel after the Madrid Conference and its clear, well-known principles? Have the Lebanese-Israeli talks taken a single step forward? Have the Syrian-Israeli talks taken a single step forward, knowing that Syria is the key to peace in the Middle East?

By involving the Palestinian side in an unfair separate agreement, by deceiving the Palestinian side in order to keep Jerusalem out of the agreement and to maintain the Israeli occupation, and by waving material temptations at this deceived side, although they were soon to be discovered to be a big lie—by doing all that, Rabin thought he had won a big prize and could, consequently, undermine the entire peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He ignores the fact that peace is made by peoples, not individuals, and that peace is strengthened when it is based on principles of justice, right and UN charters. He also ignores the fact that an illusionary peace will inevitably collapse in the face of the people's strikes and struggle for the sake of their usurped rights and occupied lands. Hence, we can see his attacks on Lebanon and his flagrant avoidance of the requirements of the peace process on the Syrian track, that is, complete and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

This Israeli subversion damages the U.S. peace initiative, the United States' credibility and its commitments, as well as the efforts of the world community. It will inevitably lead to a great failure for U.S. policy in the Middle East. The United States, Russia, and other parties in the world community have a rare opportunity to return things to their proper order and to revive the peace efforts. This can be done by denouncing Israel's aggression, in a clear and decisive way, especially because Lebanon has made an urgent protest to the UN Security Council. Naturally, denunciation alone is not sufficient. Deeds must accompany words. Israel must be asked to precisely implement the UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw from all Arab territories.

Syria will always support Lebanon. Israel's threats and actions will have no influence whatsoever on the two countries' determination to regain their occupied territories in full, regardless of sacrifices.

Iranian Foreign Minister Meets al-Asad, al-Shar'

Discusses Israeli 'Escalation'

JN0406154094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended.

Dr. Velayati conveyed to the president a message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning developments in the region. The president asked Velayati to convey a reply message.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around a number of issues concerning the situation in the region and Israel's escalation of tension in it, as well as issues of mutual concern.

Notes Support for Lebanon

JN0406170894 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jun (SANA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation today left Damascus following a two-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry staff, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Dr. Velayati made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he said: My visit to Damascus was very positive and cordial. I had the honor to meet President Hafiz al-Asad and convey to him a message from Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Discussion during the meeting also revolved around bilateral ties, the situation in the region, the recent Nonaligned Movement meeting in Cairo, and the developments that occurred within the Nonaligned Movement and its very positive attitude toward the Lebanese and Bosnian issues.

Dr. Velayati noted that the discussion also revolved around the savage Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Lebanese citizens. He said: We stressed Syria's and Iran's support for Lebanon—government and people—and for its steadfastness in the face of these aggressions.

Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Ends Visit

JN0306134694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, the Jordanian deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, and his delegation left Damascus this morning after a visit to Syria that lasted for several days. During the visit, a scientific cooperation agreement was signed between the two sisterly countries with the aim of strengthening ties of brotherhood and fostering educational, scientific, and cultural links.

The delegation was acquainted with cultural and scientific achievements and visited university buildings established during the era of President Hafiz al-Asad, the sponsor of science and the scientists.

Emphasis was placed on the need to exchange scientific expertise between Syrian and Jordanian university teachers, to exchange student delegations, and to conduct joint research.

PRC Vice Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0306143394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] PRC Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria that will last for several days. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Rislan 'Allush, the assistant foreign minister, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the PRC ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Tian Zengpei expressed his extreme happiness at visiting Syria and said: China and Syria are two friendly countries whose peoples are tied by traditional friendship. Over the past 38 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries, our friendship and cooperation witnessed satisfactory progress based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Our two countries continued to exchange sympathy and support on the international arena, holding close or identical views on many important international issues.

The Chinese official said: Increasing visits and consultations between our two countries in this age, which is characterized by a changing international climate, assumes great importance for increasing understanding and strengthening friendship. I am looking forward to meeting with the Syrian officials concerned to exchange views on international and regional issues of common concern and to look for ways of developing bilateral relations. I will witness the great achievements realized by the Syrian people under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in the field of expanding national production and developing the country.

Concluding his statement, Tian Zengpei said: I am certain that this visit of mine will contribute toward further increasing and strengthening ties of cooperation and friendship between our two countries.

Al-Asad, al-Shar' Receive PRC Minister

JN0506135194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Tian Zengpei, PRC vice foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him at the al-Rawdah palace at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and PRC Ambassador in Damascus Li Qingyu.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received PRC vice foreign Minister Tian Zengpei this morning. The meeting was attended by Ghassan 'Allush, assistant foreign minister; (Yoran Quangli) deputy director of the West Asian and North African Affairs department at the PRC Foreign Ministry; and Chinese Ambassador in Damascus Li Qingyu. The discussion dealt with the international situation, the developments in the region, and the latest developments in the peace process. They also discussed ways to enhance friendship and cooperation between Syria and the PRC.

A session of talks has been held between the Syrian side under Ghassan 'Allush, assistant foreign minister, and the PRC side under Tian Zengpei, PRC vice foreign minister.

Further on Meeting

JN0506161894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received PRC Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei and the delegation accompanying him at the al-Rawdah Palace at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and PRC Ambassador in Damascus Li Qingyu.

Zengpei conveyed to the president a message from PRC President Jiang Zemin dealing with bilateral relations. The president asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Jiang Zemin, the Chinese leadership, and the Chinese people.

Talks dealt with the Middle East situation and bilateral relations. Zengpei expressed satisfaction with the talks he held in Syria and with the development of bilateral relations and cooperation.

Afghanistan

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Borujerdi Arrives With Delegation

LD0206170194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] A high-ranking delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Mr. 'Ali Borujerdi, deputy minister for Asian-Pacific affairs of the Foreign Ministry of Iran, arrived in Kabul today on an official and friendly visit. The delegation was welcomed at Bagram Airport by esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs; Mr. Gholamreza Haddadi, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul; and a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Rabbani Receives Borujerdi

LD0306132394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asian and Oceanic affairs who is leading a delegation to Kabul, today met with Afghan president Borhanoddin Rabbani.

According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad, at the meeting the latest Afghan domestic developments, bilateral ties, and important international and regional issues were discussed.

In the course of the meeting our country's deputy foreign minister for Asian and Oceanic affair said that the events in Afghanistan are important to the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for a swifter establishment of peace and stability in that country. Mr. Borujerdi declared our country's readiness for cooperation with the Afghan government and considered the unrest in that country as the only obstacle to implementing the agreement between the two countries.

At the meeting, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, praising the efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing peace in Afghanistan, said that the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran embassy is open as the only active diplomatic representation in Kabul under the very difficult conditions due to clashes demonstrates the good will and interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran in resolving Afghanistan's internal problems.

Borujerdi To Mediate Conflict

NC0406111994 Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Kabul, June 4 (AFP)—Iran's deputy foreign minister, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, is to mediate while here between rival groups within the Afghan Shiite faction Hezb-i-Wahdat, party sources said Saturday.

A Foreign Ministry official here said Borujerdi arrived Friday for a five-day visit that will include meetings with Afghan leaders. Borujerdi came amid an ongoing leadership dispute in Wahdat between incumbent 'Ali Mazari and his challenger Akbar 'Azimi, a former member of the party's central committee.

Sources in the Iranian-backed faction said the row, which triggered fighting between supporters of the two men late last month, had caused the indefinite postponement of plans to hold party elections.

Wahdat is loosely linked with an alliance fighting to overthrow Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, which is made up mainly of Prime Minister Golboddin Hematyar's Hezb-e-Eslami and forces of the Uzbek warlord General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam.

Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have frequently urged the warring Afghan factions to settle their differences to end the five months of fighting that has left more than 2,500 dead and at least 17,000 injured.

Borujerdi has held talks with Rabbani and sources said he was due to travel to Hekmatyar's nearby base at Charasiab late Saturday to meet with the president's arch foe.

He may also meet in Kabul with former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Rabbani's strongman, the sources said.

According to the Foreign Ministry official, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali was expected to visit Kabul in the coming week.

Supply Convoy Arrives in Kabul From Shir Khan Bandar

LD0506171394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The first supply convoy arrived to Kabul today from Shir Khan Bandar.

A source in the 20th Jehadi Division of Baghlan Province reported to Bakhtar Information Agency that Shir Khan Bandar-Kabul supply route has been repaired and was opened to traffic through (Kotel-e Murgh). Esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud; and Esteemed Abdul Hay Haqjo, commander of the 20th Jehadi Division of Baghlan Province, accompanied by the high ranking representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, watched the process of arrival of the supply convoy and transport vehicles which arrived from Shir Khan Bandar to Kabul and travelled from Kabul to Shir Khan Bandar via (Kotel-e Murgh).

Sayed Abdul Motaleb, official in charge of the repair and construction of this road said that the repair and construction of this road began two months ago with the cooperation of the government officials and the Muslim people of Andarab and (Neharin) districts and was completed recently. It is now opened to traffic with this first supply convoy to pass through.

A correspondent of Bakhtar Information Agency adds that the oppositions of the Islamic State of Afghanistan who are the enemies of our land and Muslim people, were using the economic blockade of Kabul city as a strong propaganda tool. The opening of the road between Kabul and Shir Khan Bandar, which connects Afghanistan with Tajikistan, in Central Asia, is a considerable victory for the Islamic State of Afghanistan in removing the economic blockade imposed by the oppositions of our country against our Muslim nation and is another obvious defeat for the opposition.

Once more supply convoys arrive to Kabul the price of food will come down and the economic problems of our country will become relatively less.

1 Million Refugees Return From Iran

LD0206121694 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan va Baluchistan Prov., IRNA—One million Afghan refugees have so far returned to their country, the Interior Ministry's director general in charge of foreign national affairs 'Ali Husseini [name as received] said here Thursday.

The return of the refugees was arranged by a tripartite commission comprising the governments of Iran and Afghanistan and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Preparations have been made for return home of some 300,000 more Afghan refugees this year, Husseini told IRNA.

Husseini said that according to the policies of the Islamic Republic, those Afghan refugees who have received identification cards may stay in Iran as long as they wish.

The commission has given those Afghans in Iran illegally until July 1 to leave the country, he said.

India

Government Successfully Launches Prithvi Missiles

User Trials Begin

BK0406084894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The user trials of surface-to-surface medium-range missile Prithvi [Earth] got under way today with the successful launching of the missile. According to Defense Ministry sources, the test launch fully met the requirements. Army authorities are conducting the trials in actual user configuration at the Chandipur interim test range near Balasore in Orissa. According to agencies, the first launch has been targeted to hit the Wheeler Islands located in the Bay of Bengal. The next phase of trial of the 150-to- 250-km-range missile will be test-fired in actual battlefield conditions. The missile will be targeted against built-up targets to test its accuracy and the impact of conventional weapons. The trials are to last for over two months before the missile is declared fit for induction into the army.

The trials were postponed last month as the prime minister was visiting the United States.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0733 GMT on 4 Jun 94 in a similar report adds: "PTI said the Prithvi (Earth) missile was fired in clear weather from a mobile launcher at the Chandipur-on-Sea test range in the eastern coastal state of Orissa.

"The missile streaked diagonally into the sky at 11:40am (0610 GMT), targeted to hit Wheeler's Island in the Bay of Bengal about 75 kilometres (45 miles) from the test range, PTI said."]

TV Provides Details on Launch

BK0506095494 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The user trial of India's surface-to-surface missile Prithvi [Earth] commenced today. The launch began at the interim test range at Chandipur-on-Sea in Orissa at 1144 hours [0614 GMT] today. The first launch in the series fully met the mission's requirements. Our correspondent Rizwana Akhtar who witnessed the launch reports:

[Begin Rizwana Akhtar recording] Prithvi, India's surface-to-surface short-range missile, was successfully launched from the interim test range at Chandipur this morning. The missile executed a perfect takeoff at 1140 hours [as heard] soaring into the clear blue sky followed by a trail of fire and smoke. The missile was clearly visible to the naked eye for a short time before disappearing. In the morning when countdown began, there was an air of expectation and people clamored to get a vantage position to witness the launch. The tense atmosphere was broken by a surge of spontaneous applause. Scientists of the DRDO [Defense Research and Development Organization] who have helped develop the missile and officials monitoring the launch were jubilant at the success and were seen congratulating each other. The silver-white Prithvi with red stripes is smaller in size and dimension than the Agni [Fire] missile. But the sense of achievement of mission accomplished was greater than any I have seen before. [end recording]

Second Test Scheduled

BK0406160094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The users trial for the surface-to-surface missile, Prithvi, began today with the successful launch of the missile from the interim test range near Balasore in Orissa. The indigenously built missile soared into clear sky at 1144 [0614 GMT] hitting the built-up target in (Tentulichura) island of Bhadrak Coast in Bay of Bengal. Defense Ministry officials said today's launch fully met the mission's requirements. The 150-to-250-km-range missile was launched from a mobile platform in the presence of senior officials of the Indian Army and the

Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO. The second trial will be conducted on Monday [6 June] with a target in the high seas which will be followed by other trials in battlefield conditions. Prithvi is one of the five missiles developed under DRDO's integrated missile development program. The other four are Agni, Trishul, Akash and Nag.

Second Prithvi Test Successful

BK0606124094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] The second use trial of the short-range surface-to-surface missile Prithvi was successfully conducted at the interim test range in Orissa today. The Defense Ministry sources in New Delhi said that the launch was to the maximum range of the missile and all the mission requirements were achieved. Today's test flight of the sleek missile is the 14th in the series, and second from the indigenously built [word indistinct] mobile launcher.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has complimented the Army, the scientists, and staff of the concerned organizations for the accomplishment.

JKLF President Escapes Assassination in Kashmir

BK0406083994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] In Kashmir, a second attempt was made on the life of the banned JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] president, Mr. Yasin Malik, in Srinagar today when he was leading a processing to the Idgah graveyard. One of his associates died and several were injured when extremists showered bullets on them at Kankahi Mohallah. After the incident, Mr. Malik was whisked away to a safe place by his supporters. Later, he told a press conference that his attackers belong to the pro-Pakistan extremist outfit, the Hezbul Mojahedin. Yesterday, Mr. Malik had a narrow escape when the Hezbul Mojahedin tried to kidnap him from a hospital, but his supporters foiled the attempt.

[Hong Kong AFP in English 1618 GMT 3 Jun 94, in a Srinagar-datelined report, adds the following: "A pro-Pakistani Moslem rebel group Friday denied trying to kill a rival separatist leader after dragging him out of hospital and later firing on a march organised by him in this Kashmir summer capital.

"The Hizbul Mujahideen group said the Thursday attempt on the life of Yasin Malik, the leader of the powerful Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), and the attack on a rally a day later, were staged by disgruntled JKLF members.

"'Lobbyism in the JKLF was responsible for the attacks,' a trenchant Hizbul Mujahideen statement said. 'JKLF workers tried to kill Yasin Malik on Thursday and Friday.'

"Hizb spokesman Mohammed Sadiq said Malik's charges were baseless and an attempt to gain public sympathy and coverage in the media.

"'It is a ploy,' he said, referring to Malik's allegations that Hizbul Mujahideen activists had again targeted him Friday during an attack on a procession which killed at least two militants and injured four.

"'If it is proved that Hizbul men were involved, we will try them,' Sadiq added.

"Malik, who advocates an independent Kashmir unlike most other groups who want the state to accede to Pakistan, announced a three-day strike from Saturday to protest the attack by 'black sheep and criminals.'

"He also announced a fast until the 70-odd warring militant outfits reorganised themselves under three heads: those favouring independence for Kashmir, those wanting to join Pakistan, and a third 'general category.'"]

Train Bombing Kills 2, Injures 25 in Madhya Pradesh

BK0606032294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Two persons were killed and 25 others injured in a bomb explosion in a coach at the Delhi-bound Samta Express coming from Vishakhapatnam yesterday evening. The incident occurred near Rajnandgaon in Madhya Pradesh. Twelve of the injured persons were admitted to the Civil Hospital at Rajnandgaon, while others were discharged after first aid. The Central Railway Authorities have pressed into service their medical teams and are arranging a replacement for the affected coach. An emergency counter has been set up at Nagpur with phone numbers of 532417, repeat, 532417 and 532597, repeat, 532597 to handle inquiries from relations of passengers and render assistance. A relief train has also been sent from Raipur to the site.

Army Foils 'Militants" Infiltration From Pakistan

BK0306161294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Army troops guarding the northern borders of Kashmir have foiled two major attempts by Pakistan to infiltrate into India heavily armed militants. In the process, they shot dead five militants besides recovering a massive quantity of arms and explosives. Elsewhere in the valley, six militants were killed and 25 others captured since last evening.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Actions in Lebanon

LD0306140394 Tehran IRNA in English 1308 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry Friday condemned the Zionist bombardment of Ba'labakk of Lebanon Thursday morning and called on al world nations and governments to deal with the aggressive acts of the Zionist entity.

The statement reminded that scores of innocent Muslims had been martyred or wounded in the bombardment and added that the incident was one aftermath of the treacherous policies of some in their dealings with the Zionist regime and of the so-called appeasement policies in the region.

It said such incidents are proof that aggression and trespass against others is the inherent nature of the Zionist entity and that any effort aimed at conciliation with the Zionist regime will bring only misery and self-humiliation (to the Muslim nations).

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Pays Tribute to Khomeyni

NC0406135094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Report on speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at ceremony marking the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's death; on 3 June; place not given]

[Text] Last night, mourning ceremonies on the occasion of the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran were held with the participation of throngs of pilgrims, mourners, and foreign guests at the pure mausoleum of Imam Khomeyni, may God's peace be upon him.

At these ceremonies, self-flagellation by mourning groups and participants and chanting of lamentations were carried out. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the gathering, elaborating on the dimensions of the thinking, and the political characteristics of Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him. He referred to his social impact in the renaissance of Islam.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani alluded to the jurisprudential, spiritual, moral, ethical, and inspirational aspects of the thinking of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—and deemed his existence a divine bounty and stressed: The Imam's inspiration was the quintessence of these qualities.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The Islamic Revolution of Iran led by Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—in the course of the history of Islam was unprecedented after the esteemed Prophet of Islam, may God's peace and blessings be upon him and his scion, in such a manner that it can be described as a miracle.

He stressed: Imam Khomeyni, may God's blessings be upon him, made an appropriate decision regarding the selection of the next leader by playing the best role at this juncture in history. If today we are able to ward off spewing venom, mischiefmongering, discord, and the destructive activities of the enemy, it is because we are treading the path of the revolution blazed by the imam behind the leader of the revolution without the slightest hesitation, and it is entirely due to the apt management of Ayatollah Khamene'i.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: Five years ago, at this same time, we were apprehensive about the future of the revolution. However, our trepidation was eliminated by the imam's guidance and with the allusions and clear indications by the imam regarding the future; the situation became completely obvious in this regard. He explained: The imam propounded the issue of leadership in such a manner that it would be safe from the treachery of the enemies who were constantly awaiting an opportunity to settle scores and to capitalize on the vacuum in the leadership. Therefore, he did not announce any individual choice openly. However, we found our path in the light of the imam's wishes and the Assembly of Experts—after these allusions evolved into a definite form—was able to make a suitable decision about the future leadership.

The president emphasized: During the course of the Islamic Revolution, we have perceived divine succor and bounties and the God of our imam did not stint in showering His kindness and blessings on the Islamic ummah. Following the demise of the imam, the multifaceted and comprehensive expediency and management continued to resolve the problems of the revolution in such a manner that it went on treading its path. The fear that had weighed on the hearts of the ever-present-on-the-scene ummah metamorphosed into confidence, trust, and self-reliance and we continued on the imam's path.

In another part of his speech, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his gratitude to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the esteemed remembrance of the imam, for his services during the struggle period, and in the aftermath of the revolution and he also thanked the household of the imam.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the president said that if today we are able to continue down our path behind the rightful successor of the imam—who is the best person imaginable to shoulder this responsibility, to reconstruct the country, and to insist on the aspirations of the imam—it is entirely due to the guidance and foresight of our dear imam.

Speaker Nateq-Nuri Addresses Khomeyni Mourners

NC0306201994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] On the death anniversary of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, last night the tomb of the great leader was the scene of a large number of people who had gathered there to mourn him and to pay homage to him.

Speaking to the mourners, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri pointed out that five years after the death of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni's line and path are continuing strongly, he said that the secret behind the success of the Islamic revolution is the bond between the ummah and the supreme leader. He added: With all the knowledge that it has of the Imam, the Islamic Republic can still not fully understand the various aspects of his character. The Majles speaker said: It is a source of pride for the rule of the supreme leader and for the Islamic Republic to have victoriously stood up for eight years in front of the entire world of arrogance to defend its religion and homeland.

Later in his remarks, Nateq-Nuri stressed that our government and nation would defend the country's territorial integrity with its life and said: We believe that regional security is beneficial to all the regional countries and that irresponsible remarks and satanic overtures by some regional countries would not benefit peace and security in the region.

The head of the legislative branch referred to the stances of the esteemed leader in support of the Muslims and the oppressed of the world and said: As far as Palestine is concerned, the only alternative is that the Zionists leave the occupied territories and that the Palestinians' sovereignty be established over their land.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Foreign Dignitaries

LD0606101994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Excerpt] At a meeting with foreign dignitaries taking part in the ceremonies marking the fifth anniversary of the death of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran ['Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani] stressed the need for unity among the world Muslims.

The president said: The big problem of the world of Islam is the lack of unity between Muslims. The Islamic Republic of Iran will do its best to create unity and has reached out the hand of unity toward all Islamic countries.

According to our correspondent, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of any country. We hope Islamic governments do not interpret our advice as interference in their domestic affairs.

Referring to the fact that Islamic Iran is very serious in the country's construction the president said: Our dependence on the outside world is being reduced every day. What worries us today is the existence of problems in the world of Islam, such as in Yemen, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Palestine.

Stressing that the Islamic revolution has continued on its course for the past 15 years without any foreign backing, he said the success and the historical miracle stem from the power of Islam and the wise leadership of the imam [Khomeyni].

Criticizing certain Islamic governments for mischief-making against the Islamic revolution, the president said: They intend to divert toward Iran the opposition of world Muslims to Israel. That is an astonishing crime and very woeful for the Muslim world.

The president added: Public opinion in the world of Islam has been awakened. We hope that the enemies of Islam will realize that and cease their mischief-making. [passage omitted]

Nation Commemorates 15th Anniversary of 'Uprising'

LD0506185994 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 5, IRNA—Various sectors of the people from Tehran and the provinces here today commemorated the anniversary of the 15th of Khordad (June 5, 1963), the bloody uprising and the beginning of the Islamic revolution.

The uprising which led to Imam Khomeyni's arrest by the monarchial regime and subsequent exile, was the first spark of the Islamic revolution, which 15 years later in February 1979, illuminated Iran and the world with millions lining the streets to welcome home their triumphant leader.

Since then, the teeming millions have continued their faithful presence on the scenes, setting up new records at his funeral service in 1989, and yesterday, as in past years, they once again made their presence felt at his mausoleum.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Ansari, head of the headquarters for organizing the fifth anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's departure, said the people of Iran who, by their presence on the scene from the outset, had carried out the directives of the father of the Islamic revolution will continue in the same path by obeying the orders of the leader of the Islamic republic Ayatollah Khamene'i.

In today's ceremonies that was observed in an atmosphere permeated with grief and sorrow the mourners of Imam Khomeyni, beating their chests, wept on the anniversary of the great loss, and also praised the martyrs of the June 5, 1963 uprising for their valor and courage in confronting the oppressive monarchy.

Praising the solid presence on the scene on the occasion of the anniversary of the June 5 uprising, Hojjat Ansari recalled the infamous storming of the Feizieh theological school by soldiers of the Shah who killed and wounded many students, and analyzed the crucial role of Imam Khomeyni from the beginning of the Islamic movement.

He said at a time when the so-called white revolution of the Shah was being bandied about with demagogical slogans, Imam Khomeyni, fully knowledgeable about the plots being hatched entered the political scene and proved to the Muslims of Iran and the world that the Pahalvi monarchy was against Islam.

On behalf of Imam Khomeyni's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, Ansari thanked the people as well as foreign guests in Iran for their participation in Saturday's ceremonies.

The anniversary of the June 5 uprising was also observed in other towns and cities throughout the Islamic republic Sunday.

In Ilam Province and its border towns and cities, people marked the uprising and remembered the role of the imam.

In Sari, Mazendaran Province, head of the Culture and Islamic Guidance Commission of the Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Taqavi said at the Babol theological school that June 5 was a turning point in the history of the Islamic revolution.

In Isfahan, member of the Association of Theological Teachers of Qom, said many elements were responsible for the victory of the Islamic revolution, but the most important of them was the leadership of the Imam and his efforts to captivate the people's hearts.

Similar ceremonies were observed in all towns and cities throughout the country at which ulema and other personalities spoke.

Velayati Comments on Visits to Egypt, Syria

NC0506070894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Our foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, who had gone to Egypt to attend the 11th session of the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers and to Syria for talks with Syrian officials, returned to Tehran last night.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, he explained the outcome of these visits. Regarding the status of the Nonaligned Movement, Dr. Velayati said: The Nonaligned Movement has found its true identity. The consensus that currently exists among most of the members on important international issues can steer the movement toward true political independence. This could make the Nonaligned Movement a fulcrum for strengthening the position of Third World countries in combating the influential powers of the world.

[Begin Velayati recording] Of course, these are relative matters. When we say that the movement is nonaligned, the concept is that influential powers will not be able to infiltrate. However in general, the movement should be maintained as a tribune [preceding word in English] for the countries of the Third World or countries of the South. This was the unanimous view of all the members of the movement. In fact, with countries such as South Africa joining the movement and the acceptance of new members with observer and guest status, we are witnessing a new peak for the Nonaligned Movement in the aftermath of the dissolution of the former Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union disintegrated, there was a sort of aimlessness and ambivalence in the movement. After two or three years, I can say that the movement has once again found its niche. [end recording]

Referring to the other matters which were discussed at the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers' session in Cairo in addition to important international matters and the future of the movement, Dr. Velayati said that discussions were also held on the structure of the United Nations and on human rights. He said: During this session, most of the members stressed that Colombia should host the Nonaligned Movement's next summit.

Commenting on the most important decision on regional issues made at the session, Dr. Velayati said:

[Begin recording] [Velayati] Regarding regional issues, extremely appropriate decisions were made in favor of Lebanon and against Israeli attacks. By consensus, Israel was denounced by 109 countries for its savage attacks on Lebanon. Some valuable decisions were approved in favor of Bosnia-Herzegovina and against the Serbs. This marks a development in the Nonaligned Movement. Approximately two and a half years ago, when we raised the issue in Indonesia, it was difficult to get even a tepid decision adopted against Belgrade.

[Unidentified correspondent] Were there any discussions about the expulsion of Serbia from the movement?

[Velayati] The Belgrade delegate was not even accepted at this session. In view of the fact that former Yugoslavia was one of the founding members of the Nonaligned Movement, it was a given that the Serbia-Montenegro delegate would not be considered a representative of the former Yugoslavia. [end recording]

It may be recalled that on his way back to Tehran, Dr. Velayati met the Syrian President, Hafiz al-Asad and other high-level Syrian officials and conveyed a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to President Hafiz al-Asad. During this visit which took place in the aftermath of the Zionist regime's attack on southern Lebanon, Dr. Velayati met Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah and conveyed the sympathies and renewed support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the oppressed people of Lebanon.

Friday Prayers Sermon on Judiciary, UK, Israel

LD0306142394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollyah Yazdi in Tehran on 3 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Passage omitted: Yazdi praises the virtues and achievements of Ayatollah Khomeyni]

The esteemed leader [Ayatooal Khamene'i] has made several speeches at meetings which have very interesting points, which we have all heard, at meetings with Majlis deputies and dear guests who came to take part in the ceremonies on the fifth anniversary of the Imam's death. [passage omitted]

These are the words of the esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [crowd chants slogans in praise of Khamene'i] After the necessary instructions the nation, the government, and the country's officials are alert. But that is not enough. You must be aware and not do anything that would give the enemy hope. [passage omitted]

As the esteemed leader said, we have never claimed that there are no difficulties in the country. Or that there are no problems in my own sector, the country's judiciary. We would never claim that.

However, fairness is also a good thing. One must open one's eyes to see all the tasks which have been accomplished during the present era when the country is undergoing reconstruction after freeing itself from the burden of the war and managing to find the means for its reconstruction. A lot of work has been carried out in all sectors. In my own area of work, for instance, why is it that when you sit together you are not prepared to mention one single positive point about the judicial apparatus? When a weakness appears in a certain corner, even though the judiciary has dealt with it and has dismissed the offender, you still choose to pretend that the individual is still present in the judiciary, and then tend to judge the whole apparatus on the basis of that individual. Is this fair?

When the eminent leader says that you should not do anything which could inspire hope among the enemies, he is obviously referring to such things. That is to say overlooking the positive points at a time when the officials of the country are working hard and rendering their services. When we review the situation in this country, we see all our means of oversight and scrutiny, as well as all our honorable, faithful, pious and religious judges, who constitute high-ranking strata in the society and are engaged in their works with such integrity, sincerity and piety.

However, you still tend to pay attention to a particular judge whom we have already arrested on the basis of a special warrant without letting everyone know about it—as we dealt with the matter in a confidential manner and only informed those whom we had to inform. We have arrested and sacked this judge, and we have also clarified his charges and forced him to pay back to the public funds that he had embezzled. However, when a number of individuals sit together, they still tend to say that the judicial power is such and such.

This was an example from my own area of work. The situation regarding the esteemed government is very much the same. Why are you not prepared to mention one single positive aspect of all the work which has been carried out by the government? However, you invariably choose to pick one negative point and dwell on that. The Majlis too has done a great deal of service in creating so much coordination and harmony between the judicial and executive branches, carrying out so much legislation, supervision, research, and dealing with so many complaints based on Article 90.

You choose not to see all these services, but you question the Majlis when a certain deputy utters something somewhere. Is this right? [Passage omitted: Yazdi emphasizes parts of guidelines by Khamene'i on importance of constructive criticism and advice]

I am cancelling the remainder of my sermon since we are overrunning on time and prayers could be delayed. I have written down one or two sentences in Arabic but before that: Israel and the kidnapping by Israel which does not comply with any of the international regulations and laws and is a blatant violation of all international regulations; a violation of human rights!

Unfortunately international forums have not made any comment! And, moreover, this is land and air aggression against state borders! What licence is there for that? Why do those who raise legal issues say nothing? Is the presence of an individual or a group in a third country, whose ideology is against the ideology of the system... [sentence as heard] Can that be a licence for aggression against a country's land and air frontiers? Why has the world kept silent?

Then, naturally, we see the recent air attacks, the bombarding of south Lebanon and the martyrdom of Muslims!

They think that with such acts the problem will be resolved. History has demonstrated, divine honor has demonstrated that problems cannot be resolved by those means. And we are certain that the area will not be calm until the day when the owners of that land, the true owners of Palestine, return to their homes. [crowd chants: "God is great"; "Khamene'i is the leader"; "Death to Israel"]

The last time I stood at this podium I told the British government that if it has any proof regrading its claim let it be given to us for investigation. So far, not only have they had no proof and have not shown anything, but they have also embarked on other action which follows those hegemonist ideas. In short, I tell the British government that that method has become old-fashioned now; the actions you have embarked upon are not right. Mend your ways. The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated in practice that it always seeks a peaceful existence and will never be willing—despite your behavior—to embark on actions which are beneath its dignity; even in retaliation.

We really say to Afghanistan that it is enough; don't ruin the country any further.

We say to some Arab countries which agitate that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not in a situation where it can be affected by such provocation. This government, which has such an alert and vigilant people, is in control of all its aspects and will not allow any power, either in the farthest region of the world or in its nearest neighborhood, to attempt the slightest violation against its independence. [crowd chants: "God is great"; "Khamene'i is the leader"; "death to antirevolutionaries"; "Death to Israel"] [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Yazdi Delivers Friday Sermon

NC0306152194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1120 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Arabic Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, on 3 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world, a quick glance at the situation of the Islamic countries, the governments dominating them, international relations, and the big powers' treatment of the Muslims, particularly the Third World countries, raises a question. The question is: Has this situation been caused by Islam and the divine system and teachings or because of Muslims' conduct, most of which is not acceptable to Islam?

The propaganda of Islam's enemies openly attributes this to Islam and says that Islam is the cause of the backwardness and degradation at intellectual, cultural, and industrial levels of these countries that have been controlled by foreigners. But examining the Islamic intellectual resources and practical conduct of the noble Prophet and the infallible imams, salutations be upon them, clearly indicates that this is propaganda from the arrogant powers' agents who have infiltrated and affected the Muslims' thinking. It has even infiltrated and affected leaders and clergymen who believed that Islam, like Christianity, has no effect on worldly affairs, politics, and social life and that Muslims should turn to worship and not interfere with political and social issues.

This is what has created a favorable atmosphere for the foreigners' hegemony. Islam is the religion of both this world and the world hereafter, the religion of politics and administration, the religion of independence and freedom far from the foreigners' domination. Turning the reigns of power over to infidels, polytheists, and foreigners is a great sin. We believe that Muslims should know Islam well and realize its truth. Had the Muslim countries realized the true Islam, Islam would have dominated the government and (?judiciary) and rulers would have been compelled to keep in line with Islam and Muslims or relinquish power. Clashes being seen between governments and peoples in some Islamic countries form a picture of this phenomenon. Had this been the case, Muslims would have realized that the rulers' behavior in these countries was not Islamic and would have naturally demanded that Islamic laws be respected.

The religion is one of politics, prudence, progress, independence, and freedom, not a religion of shackles, servility, and surrender to foreigners' hegemony.

Muslim brothers and sisters, this issue has proved that Islam passed the test of viability in the days of early Islam. Today our country has managed to rid itself of the foreigners' domination and establish an Islamic government amid Islam's laws under the leadership of the founder of the Islamic Republic in Iran, the late Imam Khomeyni.

Such a success cannot be achieved without the awareness of the public. We should explain the spirit of Islam more than before to restore to Islam its former strength in the hope that Islam and Muslims will achieve their desired strength and greatness so that Islamic rule will dominate the Muslims, God willing. I ask God's forgiveness for you and myself.

Agenda for Velayati Trip to Baghdad Outlined

PM0306135094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jun 94 p

[Unattributed report: "Four Items on Velayati's Agenda During His Visit to Baghdad"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Tehran announced yesterday that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has accepted an invitation to visit Iraq early next month.

Velayati, who will be the first Iranian minister to visit Iraq since 1978, is expected to discuss "an important and deep change in bilateral relations," according to sources in Tehran.

The agenda will include four issues:

To achieve a phased settlement to the dispute over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway on the basis of the 1975 Algiers agreement. To coordinate to prevent the establishment of a semi-independent Kurdish state in north Iraq. Iran reached a separate agreement with Turkey on this issue, while Syria announced its commitment to Iraq's territorial integrity. To agree a joint policy against Washington, and the two sides will work to set up a broader grouping that could include Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, and Libya; it could also include Qatar. To embark on a joint economic action to ease the effects of the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq, without violating the Security Council resolutions. Iran is already allowing the delivery to Iraq of huge quantities of food supplies, medicine, and "durable" commodities through operations across the border.

But there are several sources of tension in relations between Tehran and Baghdad; most importantly, either side is financing and supporting the exiled groups opposed to the other. The arrest recently of two people in Tehran on the pretext that they are Iraqi intelligence officers is an indication that the two sides are continuing the hostile operations which were originally designed during the eight-year war between the two countries.

Iraq is sheltering and financing several Iranian opposition groups, including the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the Kurdish Democratic Party [of Iran], and several Baluch groups. While Iran is supporting Shiite Iraqi organizations fighting the Baghdad regime.

Pakistan

Officials React to India's Testing of Prithvi Missile

Bhutto Expresses Concern

BK0506143094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has expressed concern over the missile program launched by India. Talking to newsmen in the Parliament House today, she said Pakistan is watching the situation closely and everything necessary will be done.

Replying to a question, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said the character assassination campaign launched by the opposition against the government is a conspiracy hatched by capitalists. She said we are ready for negotiations but blackmail cannot be allowed. Referring to allegations leveled by the opposition against the president, the prime minister said this is pure forgery and the government is considering taking strict action against those responsible. The prime minister said the government will expose the antipeople elements who are undermining the democratic system.

Spokesman: Test Begins 'Missile Race'

BK0506124794 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan said Saturday [4 June] that by test-firing its short-range ballistic missile India has unleashed a race of sophisticated weapons in South Asia.

The Pakistani reaction came hours after India test-fired Prithvi, which can carry a payload of one ton up to 190 km (150 miles), in the bay of Bengal.

"By test-firing the missile India has brought all major Pakistani cities, except the southern most city of Quetta, under its range," said Munir Akram, a spokesman for the Pakistan Foreign Office.

He said India was also looking for locations to test-fire the medium range Agni missile which can carry a payload of one ton up to 2,400 km.

On his return from a visit to the United States on Friday president Farooq Leghari told reporters that he has conveyed Pakistan's concerns to the US administration over India's efforts to deploy medium- and short-range missiles in the region.

"It is a new phase in the arms race in South Asia. It will now unleash a missile race in the region," said Akram.

The deployment of these missiles, according to him, will shorten the warning time of any surprise attack against Pakistan down to a few minutes "and, therefore, increase the hair-trigger environment in South Asia".

He said Pakistan has advised all countries concerned, especially the members of the Missile Technology control Regime, to urge India not to go ahead with the development and deployment of these missiles.

He said Pakistan had so far been talking to the United States and had established no direct contact with India over the matter "but we will consider other diplomatic options as well".

Spokesman on 'Serious Concern'

BK0506162594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today expressed Pakistan's serious concern over the final trial launch of the Prithvi missile by India. He said if India proceeds with the deployment, a qualitatively new threat will be posed to Pakistan's security. It will lead inevitably to a missile race in South Asia and accentuate the danger of nuclear arms proliferation in this region.

The spokesman said Pakistan has repeatedly warned the international community that India's deployment of missiles threatens nuclear arms race and destabilizes the South Asian region. It would also threaten all the countries of the Gulf, Central Asia, China and parts of Southeast Asia, evoking defensive responses and eroding stability. The spokesman called upon the international community, especially the members of the Missile Technology Control Regime, to prevent India from crossing a critical and possibly irrevocable threshold through the deployment of the Prithvi missile.

Indian 'Arms Build-Up' Concerns Armed Forces Leaders

BK0606093394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The country's armed forces top leadership on Sunday expressed its concern over the Indian arms build-up programme in the region, stressing the need to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone, sources told THE NEWS while referring to meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC).

The JCSC met here at the Joint Staff Headquarter with Chairman JCSC General Shamim Alam in the chair. COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Abdul Waheed, Air Chief, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, Naval Chief, Admiral Saeed Khan, Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary and some other high ranking military officers attended the meeting, which lasted for few hours.

According to informed sources, issues relating to regional security, defence and security of the country, India's ambitious arms build-up, the President's private visit to the United States, defence purchases and overall Sindh situation were some of the key subjects which came under discussion in the meeting.

Secretary, Foreign Office reportedly briefed the meeting about Pak-US official level talks, which were held in Washington on May 27 and 28 during President Leghari's visit to the US. The sources said that the meeting was informed that Pakistan had taken its principled stand on Kashmir, the nuclear issue and the F-16s, which it always regarded as a commercial deal.

The issue of observing one or two weekly holidays in all the three services also came under discussion.

Indian Troops Reportedly Kill 14 in Kashmir

BK0406144694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred another 14 people during brutal operation. In Kupwara District alone, nine people were martyred by occupation forces. Indian soldiers rounded up more than 40 young Kashmiris during their siege and search operation and sent them to interrogation cells. In Srinagar, two bodies were recovered of people tortured to death during interrogation. Shiv Sena extremists in Kishtwar reportedly burned a Muslim woman to death. In Punch District, three people were killed in indiscriminate firing by Indian troops. In retaliation, mojahedin have stepped up their attacks on Indian military targets in the occupied valley. During these attacks many Indian soldiers were killed.

Unit Leaves To Join Bosnian Peacekeeping Force

BK0406144494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The second group of 300 Pakistani troops left Lahore this morning for the Slovak Republic for onward deployment in Bosnia. The troops will form part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the war-torn Muslim country. The third group of troops is expected to leave within a fortnight. These groups are scheduled to undergo requisite training in the Slovak Republic for a period of two weeks and then fly to Bosnia to take their peacekeeping duties under the auspices of the United Nations. The remaining troops of the main body will be flown directly to Bosnia under a phased program expected to be completed by the end of July this year. At Lahore Airport, they were seen off by senior officers of the Pakistan Army.

Sources: No 'Dramatic' Rise in 1995 Defense Spending

BK0506125394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan government has no intentions of dramatically increasing its defence budget for the next financial year, highly placed government sources told this correspondent on Saturday.

"We have no intention of increasing the defence budget in real terms.

This should not be taken to mean that we do not take the country's defence requirements seriously but we cannot afford to be irresponsible with our finance," these sources said.

Experts were expecting a heavy raise in Pakistan's defence budget this year, after India increased its defence spending by a whooping 29 per cent in its budget for fiscal 1994-95, starting April 1, 1994.

"The extraordinary increase by India is basically a strategy to preserve a deterrent. However, unlike India we do not have the kind of resources to give such a massive raise in the defence budget," noted the source.

Islamabad has been applying a cut in real terms, that is after discounting inflation, on defence spending for the last three years.

In the Federal Budget for fiscal 1993-94, defence spending claimed Rs 89.1 billion [rupees] or about a third of the total budgeted expenditure. This was about two per cent increase over the previous year's revised estimate of Rs 87.4 billion.

Nawaz Sharif Rejects Bhutto Offer To Hold Talks

BK0306122194 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 3 Jun 94 p 8

[Report by Umer Farooq]

[Text] Islamabad—In a letter addressed to Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Nawaz Sharif has expressed his inability to meet her on June 5.

The prime minister had invited the leader of the opposition to tea to discuss the current economic situation in the country. It was proposed by the PM that the government would take the opposition into confidence regarding the steps to be taken in the forthcoming budget.

Nawaz Sharif turning down Bhutto's offer has proposed to send two of his colleagues instead to attend the pre-budget briefing.

The leader of the opposition in his letter has also proposed to discuss vital issues of national importance like Kashmir, nuclear programme and price hike on the floor of the House.

Following is the text of Nawaz Sharifs letter:

"Dear Prime Minister, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 29, 1994, inviting me for tea on June 5 for a discussion on the current economic situation.

While thanking you for your invitation, I will be unable to attend personally, but will be happy to send one or two of my colleagues to attend the proposed pre-budget briefing.

In the context of your invitation to the leader of the opposition for a discussion on economic issues, I do wish to express some views on the relations between the government and the opposition.

First, I find a wide gap, which is sadly increasing between your pronouncements and your practices. For instance, I am being invited for tea at a time where your government's vilification and victimisation of the opposition has reached new heights. Our government in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] was destabilised through illegal means in a bid to capture total power in the country. The leaders and workers of PML [Pakistan Muslim League] and its allied parties are being victimised and subjected to the worst form of vilification at the hands of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]-controlled official and electronic media.

Second, as I stated in your presence in my speech of the National Assembly on October 19, 1993, my role and that of my party remains one of an issue-oriented opposition engaged in constructive criticism of official policies in the larger national interest.

I hope you would agree with me that the current security and economic situation in the country is too grave to leave much room for scoring political points which seems to be your government's primary endeavour vis-a-vis the opposition. I am ready to discuss issues of vital national interest like Kashmir, the nuclear question and the price hike in the National Assembly, since, it is most suitable and representative forum for such discussions".

Sincerely,

(Signed) Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

Bhutto 'Disappointed'

BK0406150594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said she is disappointed to learn that the leader of the opposition is unable to accept her invitation for June 5 to take him into confidence about the current economic situation and the measures needed to give economic stability to the country. In a letter to Mr. Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister said she had made the invitation in good faith and in the greater national interests. In her letter, she said a democratic government always works within constitutional framework. The last elections were the fairest since 1977 and its verdict has been acceptable to all. As regards your concerns about the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] assembly and other matters, she hoped you will seek relief through the courts of law or other constitutional mechanism available. It would be best for both of us to accept constitutional realities which cannot be subjected to political pressures. In view of your inability, I have directed the minister for finance to hold a meeting with your representative tomorrow at 0500 at the Q Block for this purpose.

Leghari Comments on Visits to U.S., France

BK0306150594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Describing his visit to the United States as satisfactory, the president [Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari] said it was timely and significant. The president, who returned to Islamabad today after this two-week visit to the United States and France was addressing a news conference at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] this evening.

[Begin Leghari recording] I would like to reiterate my satisfaction with the outcome of the visit which was timely and significant. At this stage of flux in international political and economic relations, the U.S. Administration and corporate America are considering the future directions of their policies toward our region. My visit was a crucial opportunity to present our viewpoints, try, and influence these decisions. It must be recognized, however, that building a new relationship with the U.S. in the post cold war era will be a poser. It cannot be realized in one visit or at one time. My visit to the U.S., I hope, will be judged by history as having promoted Pakistan's security and prosperity and as forming a bridge between our post cold war ties with the U.S. and the new relationship which is responsive to the challenges and opportunities of the emerging era in international affairs. [end recording]

President Farooq Leghari said during his stay in the United States, he met with the Vice President Al Gore. The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher, and Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Talbott called on him and he held a series of meetings with other American officials and legislators as well as IMF and World Bank leaders and heads of various financial institutions. He said in his talks with the U.S. leaders it was agreed that the two countries would try to overcome the hurdle posed by the Pressler Amendment through a process of diplomatic consultation. The first round of such consultations was held in Washington by Pakistan and American officials on 26th and 27th May. These discussions were constructive and will continue. The president said Pakistan was also assured that the United States will remain fully engaged in promoting security in South Asia. Washington, he added, is well aware of the danger of the missile race, if India continues the development of its missile program and in particular, if it goes ahead with the deployment of the short range Prithvi. The president said he pointed out that the Agni with a range of 2400 km will pose a threat to a number of countries in our region. President Leghari said the United States acknowledged that Kashmir remains a threat to regional and international peace. Pakistan, he added, has conveyed its willingness to resume talks with India on Kashmir and other subjects once New Delhi takes some steps to create propitious conditions for such talks.

Pakistan and the United States also agreed to promote conventional arms control and more effective confidence-building measures by India and Pakistan. The president said the most exciting possibilities for future relations between Pakistan and the United States lie in areas of investment and business collaboration. In his meeting, he said there was clear recognition that Pakistan has now achieved both political and macroeconomic stability. The coming of age of democracy in Pakistan accompanied by the steps of the present government in reducing the budget deficit, in lowering inflation, and in deepening the economic reforms program has created a most propitious climate for both domestic and foreign investment in Pakistan's economy. The president said the IMF, the World Bank, and IFC [International Finance Corporation] have indicated clearly that Pakistan's economic environment is appropriate for investment, particularly in the energy sector. He said, in his opinion, Pakistan is likely to attract investment of over $2 billion annually in the coming years.

The president said on his way back, he made a stopover in Paris where he met President Mitterrand. During the course of the meeting, various steps to promote bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed.

Replying to a number of questions about the allegations leveled by the leader of the opposition implicating Mr. Leghari in the Mehran Bank scandal, the president rejected all the charges as preposterous and without an iota of truth. His political life is like an open book and the question of his involvement in any scandal does not arise at all. I have never been associated with any of the scandals, he asserted. The president said he will initiate legal proceedings against all those who are resorting to a campaign of character assassination against him. He said the fact of the matter is that he and other members of his family have sold 531 acres of ancestral land to six individuals belonging to Karachi. The payment of this land was made through Mehran Bank. He said those who are hurling allegations against him may not be aware of the fact. Mr. Farooq Ahmad Leghari said it cannot be justified to level baseless charges against the president of Pakistan.

Replying to another question, the president said there is a consensus on issues like Kashmir, nuclear program, security of the country and basic economic policies. However, he said, it is unfortunate that certain elements are out to tell the world that no consensus exists on these issues.

Court Grants Bail for Mir Murtaza Bhutto

BK0506120394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Mir Murtaza Bhutto, member of Sindh assembly and brother of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, was granted bail in Shah Bandar case by the special court for speedy trial consisting of Mr. Ali Ahmad Junejo in Karachi today.

The court, while granting bail, directed Mir Murtaza Bhutto to furnish two sureties of 500,000 rupees each. It also bound him not to leave the country until the trial of the case is completed.

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